Shoreline

Vol. 14, No. 12 • December 2007

For the Members of the Edward H. Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture at Salisbury University

Retrospective:

Celebrating 25 Years

Salisbury University

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In a Word

from Dr. Ray Thompson

Anyone who knows me, knows I am not interested in being in the limelight. It is not easy for me to write this piece as I am perfectly content being in the background, doing what is necessary to get a job done. Yet, having been involved with the Nabb Research Center since its beginning, I feel pleased with its growth and development–it represents a quantum leap forward, I think. From a single file cabinet drawer in a small office, the Center has become, in the space of 25 years, an institution recognized across the country for its uniqueness as a *tri*-state research facility and for its value to students and extra-mural researchers alike. Entirely student-centered from the beginning, the Center was planned to create students capable of analyzing primary documents, interpreting those materials and creating well-crafted historical narratives. From the first, we envisioned a mechanism which would utilize the intellectual strengths of our students, strengths that they could carry with them beyond the "ivy tower" of academia and that would stand them in good stead for the remainder of their lives, no matter what profession they chose. The spark created by this innovative center has now continued on into a second generation of students.

What allowed this Center to grow to its present stature is the fact that it was never about any one person. It has always been about Delmarva, about the importance of Delmarva's recorded past and the unique tools–original documents stretching back nearly 370 years–which students could use in learning the craft of the historian. To know that you have made a positive difference in the life of a student is the highest accolade that could be paid to a professor. At the recent gala honoring the 25th anniversary of the Nabb Center, Mike Scott, currently a professor of geography at SU, who coincidentally was a student of both of the co-founders, alluded to this in his remarks about the Center. I was deeply touched by his comments.

This retrospective issue showcases many of the people who made possible the growth of the Center by providing funds, volunteering time or offering support in a myriad of other ways. The people of Delmarva or with Delmarva connections have made the Research Center what it is today. Howard and Louise Adkins, Grace Atkinson Morris, Wilcomb Washburn, Ed Nabb and Tom Fooks are but a few of those whose vision was/is to reach out and demonstrate that Delmarva is–after all–a subject worthy of continued study and that the Center is a laboratory in which great history can be written. To them, to Sarah Elizabeth Kelly Ennis, whose obituary brought the vision of a Center to my mind, to the wonderful Nabb staff–past and present–and to all the rest of you who have shared this vision, this *Shoreline* is dedicated.

NOTE: Source materials for articles are available at the Nabb Research Center.

22nd National Conference on Undergraduate Research

Over 2,200 undergraduates, faculty and administrators involved in scholarly and artistic activities from over 300 colleges and universities converge on Salisbury University April 10-12, 2008, to promote undergraduate research in all fields of study.

Among the student presentations there will also be artistic performances, social events, brown-bag sessions, as well as more formal speakers such as American Broadcasting Corporation Executive Vice President for Documentaries Rudy Bednar and ethicist and computer science professor Anne Foerst.

For more information, visit www.salisbury.edu/ncur22.

Hours & Closings

HOURS
Monday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.
Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

CLOSINGS
Winter Break - December 20-January 1, 2007
Martin Luther King Jr. Day - January 21
Memorial Day - May 26

From the Les Callette postcard collection.

Shoreline

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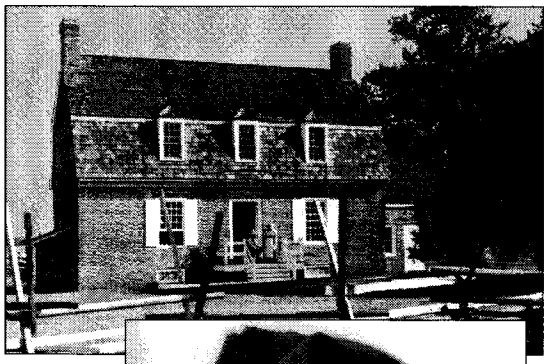

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Interim Director, Dr. G. Ray Thompson. *Research Assistant,* Aaron Horner. *Secretary,* Donna Messick. *Library Technician/Web Designer,* Iris Powell. *Reading Room Coordinator,* Natasha Jones. *Receptionist,* Corinne Les Callette. *Graduate Assistants,* Matthew Heim and Matthew Mitchell. *Archivist,* Simone Myree.

This issue and back issues of the *Shoreline* may be purchased for $10 each by contacting us at 410-543-6312 or rcdhac@salisbury.edu.

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Nabb News

Welcoming New Student Interns

Ashley Ennals

Ashley Ennals joins the Nabb Research Center staff this semester as part of a work-study program through Salisbury University. From Cambridge, MD, Ashley is currently a sophomore majoring in accounting. She performs clerical duties such as filing and data entry to keep the Center running smoothly. Her future plans include attaining CPA certification upon graduation and moving across the Bay to Annapolis.

Morgan Fincham

English major Morgan Fincham from Calvert County, MD, is assisting the Nabb Research Center this semester through a Salisbury University internship. Currently a senior, she assists with the production of the Center's publication *Shoreline*. Future plans may include work with a publishing firm as she explores the process of research and publication at the Nabb Center.

Michael Odesola

The Nabb Research Center welcomes Michael Odesola to its staff. Michael is a work-study student majoring in information systems and is a senior at Salisbury University. Michael comes to us from Silver Spring, MD, and grew up in Abuja, Nigeria. He plans to travel across Europe this summer after graduating and also return to Nigeria to visit family. He eventually plans to work toward his M.B.A. and pursue a career as a database specialist.

Ashley Ennals

Morgan Fincham

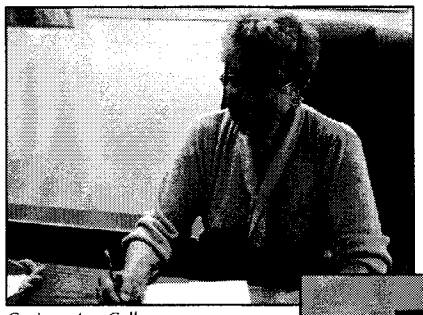
Michael Odesola

Welcoming New Staff

The Nabb Research Center would like to welcome two familiar faces to the staff. **Corinne Les Callette** recently joined us in the position of receptionist. She will be manning the front desk in the Reading Room Monday through Wednesday. Corinne was a history major in college and previously worked the front desk at the Nabb Center from 1998 to 2001. She is excited about returning to the center and looks forward to meeting new people and assisting patrons in their research.

Natasha Jones, another face familiar to the Nabb Research Center, has joined the staff in the new position of Reading Room coordinator. Natasha studied as an undergraduate at Salisbury University and was the recipient of both the Miles-Stevenson and Washburn prizes for her research here. She went on to William and Mary for her M.A. and performed the majority of her thesis research at the Center. Natasha also worked through a grant on the DelmarvaSettlers.org project at the Center.

We look forward to working with both Natasha and Corinne and welcome them with into the Nabb Research Center family.

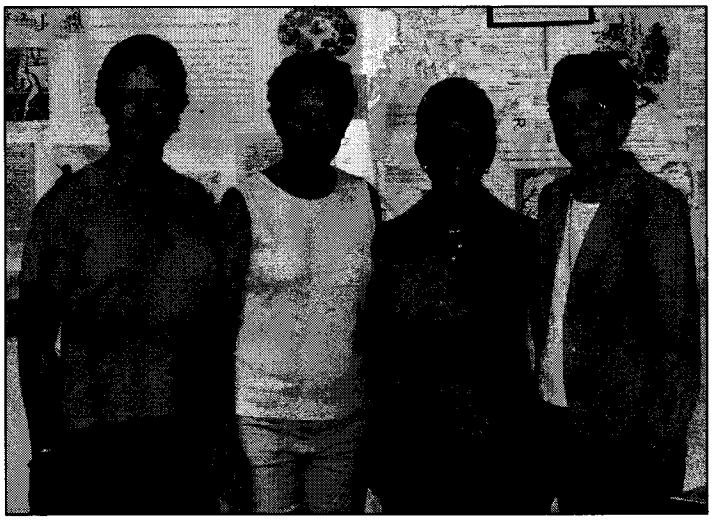


Corinne Les Callette

Natasha Jones

Visiting Researchers

Although Salisbury University students are, for the most part, occupied elsewhere during the summer break, the Center remains busy through the summer months. Many avocational researchers visit the Center to trace their family histories with the land, court and church records held in the Center collections. Pictured are visitors who came to the Nabb Research Center this summer to research the Gordy family.



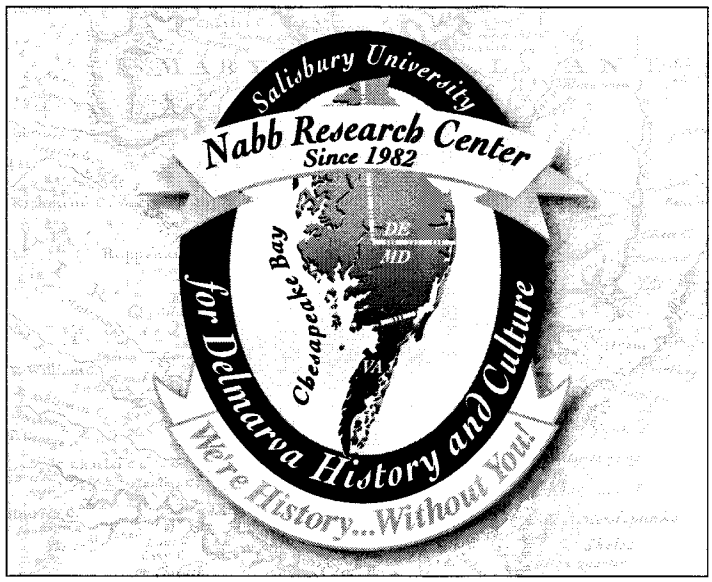
(From left) sisters Dena Berquist (from Salina, KS), Barbara Fox (Plano, TX) and Melinda Gordy Corporon (Overland Park, KS) with cousin Eileen Gordy (Lawrence, MI).

Retrospective: Introduction

by Natasha Jones

Welcome to the special "Retrospective" edition of *Shoreline*.

On November 3, the Nabb Research Center hosted a gala event to celebrate the 25th anniversary of its founding. In honor of this momentous occasion, the dedicated staff and supporters of the Nabb Research Center have developed this special edition.



As with every issue of *Shoreline*, this edition introduces members to the newest additions to the Nabb team and highlights outstanding student research with the presentation of an award-winning essay. We also have taken advantage of the opportunity to gratefully acknowledge and thank the sponsors, donors and attendees of our recent 25th anniversary events in this issue. In addition, you will find information about membership renewal, news about upcoming events and publications, and comments from the Nabb Center's co-founder and interim director, Dr. G. Ray Thompson.

Along with these standard features, this edition of *Shoreline* celebrates a quarter century of service to Salisbury University and the entire Delmarva community by offering a special look at the elements that have contributed to the Nabb Center's growth and success. In these pages, you will find a brief history of the Center's evolution from a collection of historic documents in a single filing cabinet to its present identity as a full-service archive and research facility. You will read about a selection of the Nabb Center's achievements and some of the many supporters who have been the driving force behind these accomplishments. You also will be reminded of several of the successful exhibits sponsored and presented by the Nabb Center over the years, as well as what has made those exhibits possible: the center's collections.

Whether in the form of original documents, published volumes, microfilm, material culture or digital databases, the collections held by the Nabb Research Center represent the backbone of its identity and success. These records and artifacts illustrate the rich historical and cultural heritage of Delmarva, and preserving and providing access to these materials have been at the forefront of the Center's mission from the point of its inception. Our collections enrich the academic studies of Salisbury University students, attract researchers from all regions of the country, and stand as an unparalleled resource for the analysis and understanding of American history and culture.

Given the value of these historical resources and their pivotal role in the Nabb Research Center's success, we have chosen to bring attention to several interesting and important collections in this special issue of *Shoreline*. Selecting which collections to highlight was not an easy task because there are, as our members are well aware, so many from which to choose. As such, we have striven to offer something to appeal to everyone by focusing on collections that are representative of a broad array of themes, time periods and media.

For those interested in African-American studies, Nabb Center staffer Donna Messick offers an update on her recent work in developing a database from Somerset County manumission records. Graduate student intern Matthew Mitchell presents us with a glimpse of 19th-century military history through the lens of a local man, Captain Albert Laws. New undergraduate student intern Morgan Fincham introduces us to an unexpected facet of 20th-century military history in her account of Harry Korff's experiences during World War II. Morgan also leads us through the correspondence of four Eastern Shore sisters with her study of the Lankford Collection, offering a reminder of the importance of letter writing prior to the age of phones and e-mail.

If religious history is more to your liking, graduate student intern Matthew Heim addresses the growth of Methodism on Delmarva from the 18th century to the present through the resources available in the Covington Collection. For those with an interest in family history, Nabb Center member Gil Kaufman makes clear the value of the Center's resources to genealogical study in his informative article about the 17th-century Somerset County settler Lazarus Maddox. And for those engaged in the study of the historical landscapes of Delmarva, I have offered an overview of one of the many wonderful map collections available at the Center.

In addition to highlighting resources currently held by the Nabb Center, Aaron Horner calls our attention to one of the most challenging and mysterious aspects of historical research, that of missing materials. While the Delmarva region can boast of having a nearly unbroken chain of historical records dating from the earliest point of European settlement in the 17th century, there are gaps and missing links. Horner tackles the mystery of Somerset County's missing court books, using his knowledge of local sources to offer an explanation for these lost volumes.

In doing so, he reminds us of the fact that the Nabb Research Center's archive is not complete. Collections development is a dynamic and ongoing process, requiring not only knowledgeable individuals to collect and assess materials, but also the active support of the community whose history the archive seeks to preserve and protect. Because the Nabb Center's collections are the backbone of its identity and success, and because the development of those collections relies upon the support of our members and the community, the Nabb Center's success can be credited to its supporters. In other words—you!

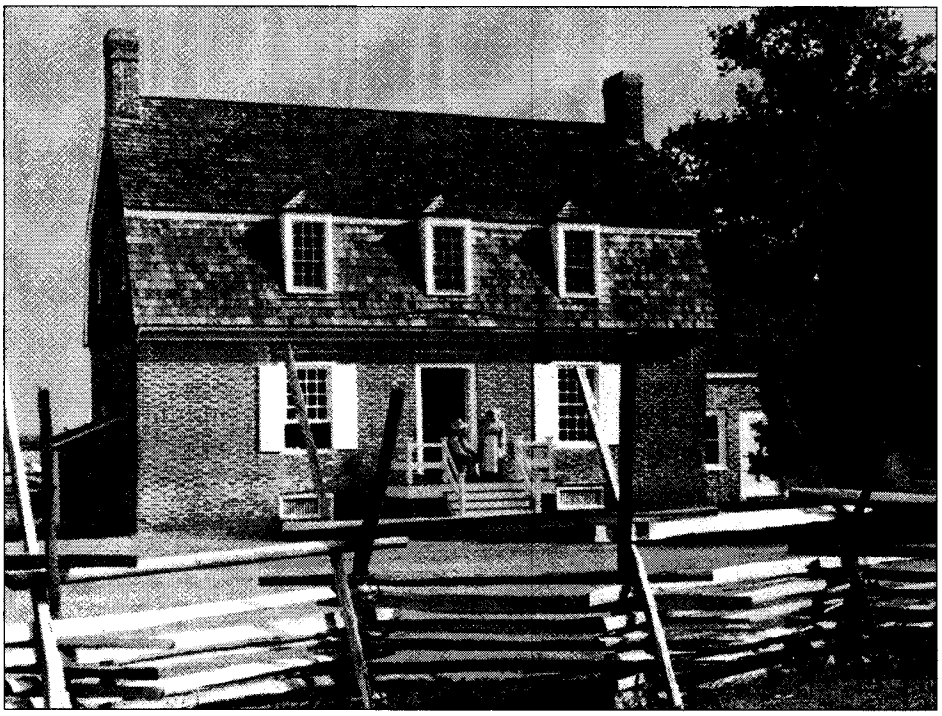
With our 25th anniversary, we are celebrating the Nabb Research Center's success. In doing so, we are celebrating you.

Thank you for your support.

Event

Step Back in Time at Historic Pemberton Hall

by Iris Powell



The Nabb Research Center stepped back in time at historic Pemberton Park on Saturday, September 15. A beautiful, calm fall day welcomed attendees to Pemberton Hall and a Nabb Research Center benefit event at the restored home of Isaac Handy built on the banks of the Wicomico River in 1741. Guests sampled a Colonial menu of Brunswick stew, salamagundi, brandied peaches, corn bread, assorted desserts and apple cider. Interpreters guided guests through the house, the only example of 18th century architecture in the tri-county area. The quiet gentle atmosphere on the banks of the Wicomico River evoked a sense of historic place and time where life, while not easy, was in rhythm with the seasons and nature.

The Nabb Research Center thanks all who contributed to making the event a success.

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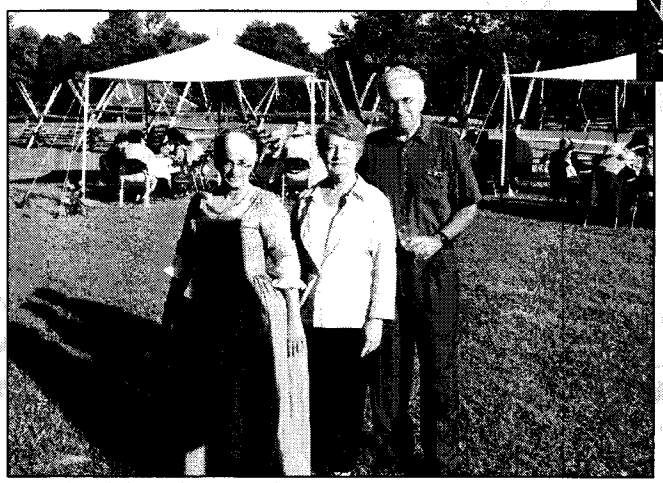


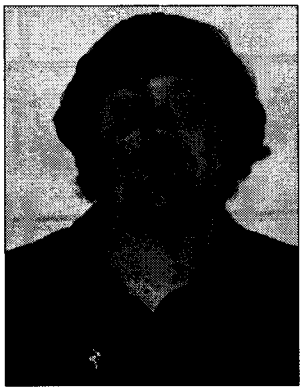
Pat Taylor, Phyliss and George White

The String Dusters

Biographical Profile of Samuel Jackson

Miles-Stevenson Research Prize

By Kevin Southern



On the 16th of August, 1661, a young carpenter arrived in the Maryland colony who, though an indentured servant, would eventually be one of the few who lived long enough, worked hard enough and were just plain lucky enough to rise to a position of moderate importance in the colony. William Colebourne, who would soon become one of early Somerset County's most important settlers, was the gentleman who paid for the carpenter Samuel Jackson's transport and was therefore entitled to several years of the fruits of his labor. On that late summer day Colebourne submitted to the Land Office his desire to have 400 acres of land surveyed in his name as official thanks for having transported new settlers to the colony. However, according to the headright system then established, an individual was entitled to just 50 acres of Maryland land for transporting new colonists across the Atlantic and into the province. This meant that in order to receive 400 acres of land, Colebourne needed to have transported eight individuals into the province of Maryland. The problem was that Colebourne had only transported himself, his wife, his son and two indentured servants–both Samuel Jackson and another young man named John Renshaw–up until that time. He owed the state another three transports, which he promised to pay for before the next 10 months were up, or else he would have to be content with only 250 acres. But Colebourne was ambitious, and he didn't back down on his desire to have the full 400 acres. So the Land Office did indeed grant the planter's request, for what reasons there is no certainty, and the warrant for all 400 acres was made out. The deal was tenuous to say the least, since fortunes could change so dramatically in the course of 10 months, and who was to say if William Colebourne would even be around to make good on his deal come next June?

Colebourne had to have a lot of faith in the health, able-bodiedness and work ethics of John Renshaw and Samuel Jackson, and his risky venture must have relied heavily on how much work he could get out of his two indentured servants over the next few months. By the time his 400-acre warrant was laid out, in August, the planting season was largely over. It is possible that Colebourne's five-member household had been in the colony for a while before making this appearance at the Land Office and that the 400 acres in question were land Colebourne had already begun to use. But even still, for anyone to pledge to transport three more people in 10 months, as summer was drawing to a close, was high presumption. Nevertheless, Colebourne's faith in Jackson and Renshaw must have paid off, if his later standing in the colony is any indication.

The 20-something year old Jackson (he could not have been much older because his child-producing years didn't begin till 13 years later in 1674) probably used his skills as a lumberjack and carpenter to bring much profit to the Colebourne household. Jackson's inventory proves that he had an extensive collection of specialty tools that give clear indication that carpentry was his occupation. Also, the inventory shows that Jackson was heavily involved in raising pigs, and following the years of his indenture it is probable that he sold pork, a meat that was somewhat of a luxury in Colonial Maryland, to his friends and neighbors.

Seven years after Colebourne claimed his 400 acres, Samuel Jackson himself, or "Sam" as his friends and neighbors affectionately called him, entered his own request for land and had a tract called Long Hill officially surveyed for him on July 23, 1668. The grant itself was officially recorded on August 1. The tract was on the southeast side of the Nanticoke River by Quantico Creek and came to 100 acres. It is unclear why Jackson received more than the standard 50 acres at once. But in January 1672, both he and his fellow servant from the Colebourne estate, John Renshaw, would record with the Land Office that their indentures had been completed and they were each entitled to 50 acres.

The years between 1668-1673 must have been incredibly exciting for Jackson, indeed. Each year he was making steady profits farming his own land and practicing his carpentry skills for his neighbors on the Nanticoke. In February of 1672 he recorded a purchase from the county of another tract of land called Danbury, but in fact he must have been living on this land shortly before then, because in March of the previous year he had sold Long Hill to James Dashiell for 4,000 pounds of tobacco (double what a 100-acre tract normally went for). Living on Danbury made him neighbors with another settler named Roger Phillips, with whom he became good friends. The two young men were both beginning to think about marriage now that they were financially secure and accordingly may have gone together to the ports a number of times to survey the new (female) arrivals that frequently came from England to make Maryland their new home. Such young women were usually hoping to attract the attentions of just such young men as Jackson and Phillips, in fact, and often came in large part because the promoters back in England had promised they would be quickly married once they set foot on the American shore.

On September 23, 1672, Dorothy and Anne Clark, sisters, had their arrivals recorded by the Land Office by James Jones, who was using them to take advantage of the headright system. Both Dorothy and Anne had been employed as indentured servants by the Jones household, but neither of them would have to serve for long. On October 22, just 29 days later, Dorothy was married to Roger Phillips and Anne to Samuel Jackson, in a double marriage.

Strife was not long in coming to the Jackson household, however. Anne had been pregnant when she and Sam were married, and, assuming that her employer James Jones had recorded her arrival relatively quickly, she may have even been pregnant when she arrived in Maryland. If that was the case, it becomes quite clear why Anne Clark would have fled to America in search of opportunities that did not exist in England, and her supportive sister Dorothy (who proved she was supportive by accompanying Anne to court when she was prosecuted for bastard-bearing) would have come along. At any rate, however, on January 14, 1673, Anne was brought before the court for her crime. We do not know if Anne had told Jackson about her pregnancy before they had been married or if she had perhaps found a way to conceal it, but we do

Plat of Pomfritt, William Colebourne's land where Samuel Jackson would have lived and worked during his time of service

know that Jackson stood by her as she faced the court and even summoned witnesses on her behalf.

Anne's bastard son was most likely James, who is mentioned in his step-father's will as "my wife's son." Jackson made the young man part of his family, but would not leave any tracts of land to James as he did to the sons of his own blood who were born later. His firstborn child was a daughter named Susanna, born November 28, 1674. On June 27, 1677, he and Anne also became the proud parents of another daughter named Mary. The Jacksons welcomed their first son, Jonathan, on December 11, 1679,and shortly thereafter Samuel got her pregnant again and she gave birth to Samuell Jackson Jr., on March 22, 1681. At some point after this, yet another son, Daniel, was born to the pair, but his exact birth date is not found in the historical record.

Concurrent with the growth of Jackson's family, he was also increasing the amount of land he held. On January 14, 1673, the same day he was at the county court for his wife's bastard-bearing case, he purchased a 100-acre tract of land called Runcell from a settler named John Bound. This tract was adjacent to land he already owned along the Nanticoke River, and it is possible that he had had his eyes on it for some time. Now that he had a new wife and step-son, it would be the perfect time to buy.

In January 1677, when his wife was about three months pregnant with their second daughter, Jackson once again started looking for land to buy. It was probably the news of the pregnancy that motivated him. However, the land he eventually decided to purchase must have been bittersweet for him to actually buy. It was the lot of his friend, his neighbor and his wife's sister and brother-in-law. Roger and Dorothy Phillips sold their 100-acre lot called Abergaveny to the Jacksons for 2,000 pounds of tobacco and moved away.

Abergaveny was an especially beautiful tract of land. Less marshy than all the other land Jackson had hitherto owned, it was on the south side of the Nanticoke River on a "high banke" and it had many large hardwood trees such as oak and hickory. It had probably belonged to the Nanticoke tribe before Phillips had gotten it surveyed on May 10, 1673, and the hardwood trees had probably flourished due to the Indian practice of a style of agriculture called "swidden"—the setting of fires in the forest to clear out the underbrush and encourage the growth of large trees. Abergaveny also boasted an orchard and the hall that Roger and Dorothy had themselves lived in. For that reason, it probably also had sentimental value to Samuel and Anne, who probably knew that their friends the Phillips had sold it to them because they couldn't bear selling it to anyone else. The Jacksons made Abergaveny the center of their lives and were still living on it when Samuel died in 1688. He left that lot as well as another one that lay adjacent to it, called "Small Lott," to his eldest son Jonathan and specified in his will that his wife was welcome to finish her days there if she so wished. Abergaveny was one of only two tracts of land Jackson mentioned by name in his will: he disposed of the other lots without even mentioning their names, merely divvying them up between his younger sons, Samuel and Daniel.

In 1676 Jackson was called to court, along with 29 other settlers on the Nanticoke, to answer the complaint of Annacockeson, the "Indian Emperor of Nanticoke." Annacockeson had already been before the Somerset County court once before, demanding remuneration for lands the English had taken which before had belonged to his people. Annacockeson had not been hard to deal with, however. He had accepted that the land was no longer his, as long as those settlers living on what used to be his land would provide him with a goodly number of match-coats, or deerskin cloaks. Annacockeson had gotten four such coats on the spot, but was coming back for more. The second time around 15 more match-coats were supplied to Annacockeson, and that was the last time that he brought a complaint against Samuel Jackson or any of his neighbors. Shortly thereafter is when Jackson purchased "Small Lott" and then, in 1682, a lot called "Venture."

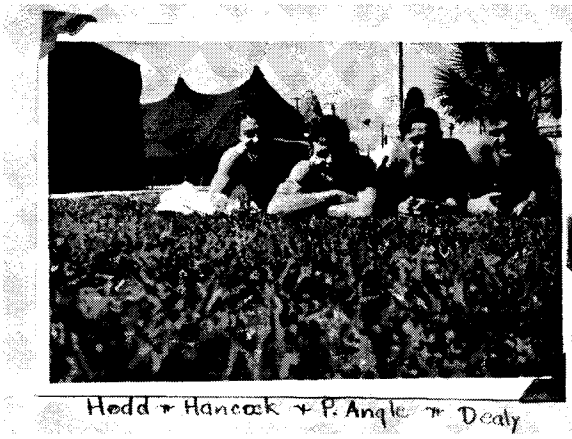
Jackson wrote his will on March 11, 1688, and must have died shortly thereafter, for the will was probated only seven months later. He had survived for 27 years in the New World and, having served on many juries and testified in a few cases, his standing in the colony must have been moderately high. Upon his death his son Jonathan took up the planter's legacy and would continue the climb up the Colonial social ladder that his father had begun.

Kevin Southern is native to Delmar, MD. His father was the pastor of a Sussex County church for 10 years. Southern is a senior history major with an interest in religious studies, notably the history of Christian and Islamic mysticism. His inspiration for the award-winning biographical sketch came from John Ruston Pagan's novel *Anne Orthwood's Bastard: Sex and Law in Early Virginia*, which studies the legal case of a young Eastern Shore woman migrating to America while pregnant. Southern did further investigation into the court records surrounding Samuel Jackson's wife, who had a similar circumstance with a different outcome. Southern is married to a woman with equally strong ties to the Eastern Shore and resides in Greensboro, MD.

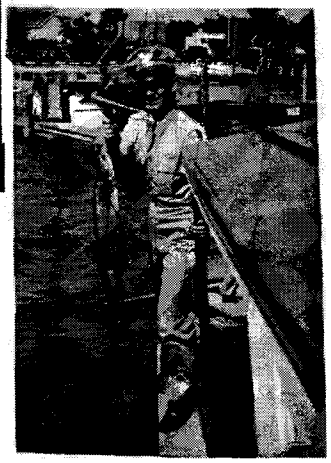
All Is Fair in Love and Guerra: The Harry Otto Korff Collection

by Morgan Fincham

Harry Otto Korff



Pages from Korff's journal



Having graduated from Forest Park High in 1941, Harry Otto Korff completed one year at the University of Maryland College Park before he signed up at an Army recruiting station one year and three days after the anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Korff was the son of a military man, so it is no surprise he cut his college career short to enlist and serve in World War II at the age of 19. The Baltimore native knew what he sought in the Army: to learn to fly. Just one month after enlisting, he began the process for applying as an aviation cadet. Baltimore City Mayor Howard W. Jackson wrote a recommendation letter for the young man on January 28, 1943. Korff was accepted two weeks later. Called to active duty on April 7, 1943, he found himself a new aviation cadet in Squadron D Group 4 in the Army Air Force Classification Center of Nashville, TN. From there he attended the Pre-Flight Class of 44-A at Maxwell Field, AL. Now Korff knew what role he aspired to in the air, so his next step was training at the Flexible Gunnery School at Tyndell Field, FL; later he graduated from the San Angelo Army Air Field Bombardier School on February 26, 1944.

As part of the 15th Air Force based in Italy, Harry Korff flew a series of 57 missions from August 20, 1944, through April 4, 1945—a total of 254 operational hours. This long list of sorties earned him the Air Medal for sustained operational flight over enemy territory. Two articles in local Baltimore papers noted his accomplishment with native pride. Korff had kept a methodical list of all missions which is cataloged at the Nabb Research Center, citing the date, sortie, mission, target, implementation plan, position and bomb. The collection even contains classified maps of bombing sights which Korff pirated away at the close of World War II. A photo journal of his time training and serving abroad provides the most insight into the man we now explore through the evidence he left behind. Military yearbooks also illuminate his perspective and that of his colleagues during the war. Photography was a passion of this young man, who participated in a photo club in high school, and we reap that benefit at the Nabb Research Center.

Training days seemed to be rather joyful for the men. Some had their own private Jeeps and went off-roading for entertainment. For a more gentle leisure time, they would drape themselves across the hoods, napping in their green fatigues like lizards basking in the afternoon sun. At Flexible Gunnery School in Florida, leisure days began with an early rising to fish, returning with over half a dozen arm's-length-sized fish for supper. They swam all summer day, never changing out of their bathing trunks. During the mild winter, a rare snowball fight provided Korff with a fun photographic opportunity. New Year's Eve, based on Korff's caption in his journal beneath a snapshot of two men emerging bleary-eyed and half clothed from their tent, was celebrated with the exuberance expected of any masculine group of 20-somethings. There was a military attempt to help counter the testosterone-filled environment: the Army matched up servicemen on evening dates with women from the local towns. In a yearbook from Korff's collection at the Nabb Rsearch Center, an article was written by the military documenting this program where a soldier picked the lady up from her house and met the parents (as required of any young man in the 1940's). The officer dined and danced and hoped for a second date. Korff, however, seemed to have no need for this program as evidence suggests he was surrounded by women, which earned him a "ladies man" reputation with his fellow troops.

I met her here in Foggia when she came down from Rome to spend a few weeks.

Yvonne is very well educated and can speak English fluently along with several other languages.

She possesess charm and a magnetic personality to back up her dreams and ambitions that any girl, Italian or American has.

P.S. She later later turned out to be an Axis agent. C'est la guerra!

Quite talented too.

Taken at her castle in Sarento

Something like Ingrid Bergman.

'Twas on the Isle of Capri that I met her. She was the most American looking Italian that I saw when I was at Rest Camp on Capri in October 1944. Her mother is Baroness of a town near Cassino. Could almost see bringing her home.

Pages from Korff's journal

During his participation in the 301st Pre-Flight days at Maxwell, Korff had occasion to photograph three young ladies—Mary Shaw, Laura Converse and Virginia Copeland—who seemed to be habitual guests of Korff and his buddies. They swam, picnicked, went boating and dined out. One month after graduating from San Angelo, Korff had already befriended three women who entertained behind the bar at an officer's party in Foggia, Italy, on March 25, 1945. While in Naples, one particular woman caught his eye, Maria Theresa Isastia, daughter of a baroness near Cassino. He likened her to the Hollywood star Ingrid Bergman and fancied taking her home, as she was the most American looking Italian he had seen yet. Korff captured the image of this beauty at one of her family's castles in Sarento. However it is Foggia that proved the most beguiling city for this ambitious young man.

It is here that, besides the three women who worked at the officer's party, a chance encounter with the beautiful and intriguing Yvonne Ferrante stole Korff's heart, this time more completely than any woman he had yet encountered. Ferrante was only visiting Foggia for a few weeks from Rome. She was fluent in English as well as several other languages. Young Korff was enchanted. He saved a photograph of this intriguing woman, now preserved in the Nabb Research Center collection, and she truly is a beauty. He praised her charm, magnetic personality and ambitiousness, fetching in any woman, he stated, Italian or American. Ferrante is so beautiful, so educated and so motivated. And Korff is so bewitched he never questioned the ambitions that drove such a woman as this to pass her sparse few weeks of leisure time away from home with an American soldier. He had always found himself popular with the opposite sex, regardless of what country he was in. In his military identification cards and yearbooks at the Nabb Research Center, we see a handsome young man with blond hair, blue eyes, bright white teeth set off by a light tan gained from the hours logged outdoors in training. His smile was both humble and debonair. They were both young, intelligent and ambitious. Her special attentions were appreciated, not criticized. Could he convince this one to come home with him after the war? Or will the all too often truism of "too good to be true" prove true once again?

According to Korff's journal, the beautiful Ferrante was discovered to be an Axis spy. The young woman was industrious, but not in the way Korff assumed. Ferrante was indeed brave and intelligent. One can only speculate as what would motivate a young woman to become a spy: allure of danger, patriotism, financial gain, a sense of power? How the discovery of her espionage was made is a mystery, as the only closing words on this turbulent chapter of his romantic life are ambiguously "C'est la Guerra!" This is war!

As Harry O. Korff collected stories, memories and medals in the military, we share in his collection of a broken heart. Following WWII Korff completed his college education at Johns Hopkins University in his hometown of Baltimore, MD, and studied to become a dentist. He followed in the footsteps of some family members by relocating to the Eastern Shore where he established his dental practice in Salisbury. He was twice married and had one son (deceased). Having died April 2, 1993, he was buried at the Wicomico Memorial Park. His memories were not buried with him for he left it all for us to experience ourselves as one of the newest collections at the Nabb Research Center.

The Splendid Little War: The Albert Laws Collection

by Matthew Mitchell

The Spanish American War was termed "The Splendid Little War" by U.S. Secretary of State John Hay. The war lasted only a few months during the late spring and summer of 1898. This conflict was sparked by the Cuban fight for independence from their Spanish colonial masters. In response, the United States demanded that Spain peacefully resolve her differences with the Cubans and sent the *U.S.S. Maine* to monitor the situation. The subsequent explosion of this ship sent the United States and Spain to war. Although the war only lasted a few months, fighting took place on a global scale in Cuba, Guam and the Philippine Islands. In the end, the United States took possession of Guam and Puerto Rico while also taking effective control of the situation in Cuba and the Philippines. The spoils of "The Splendid Little War" transformed the U.S. into a Colonial power with colonies across the globe.

Photo from Albert Laws Collection

It was into this situation that local veteran Albert Laws was thrust. Laws was from Salisbury, MD, and served in the United States military during the Spanish American War. Captain Laws served as a quartermaster in the 24th U.S. infantry regiment. Yes, the same Buffalo soldier regiment that made its name so famously during its charge up San Juan Hill. He later served as a police officer in the 35th U.S. volunteer corps while in the Philippines. Laws served bravely in battles such as that of San Juan Hill and was personally mentioned by his commanding officer, Captain Henry Wygant. These heroic incidences were only the beginning of his career. Laws served the majority of his career in the Philippines.

It is from Laws' service both before and after the Spanish American War that the Albert Laws Collection is built. The collection is filled with many different types of material culture artifacts, physical items that can be held and interpreted. Artifacts of this nature include several guns, uniforms, memorabilia and Laws' swords. Many of our readers may remember an article done by Leonard J. Garigliano on the 1902 and 1860 officer's swords that make up a portion of the collection. The 1860 sword merits individual attention. At first glance, a researcher may not notice that the sword hilt is different from the standard 1860 model. Garigliano concluded that Laws had a new hilt placed on the blade in order to accommodate his small hands. While we cannot be certain of his hand size, we do know from his uniforms that Laws was a small man with only a 30-32 inch waist. Based on this observation, it is reasonable to consider that he may also have had small hands. This is just one of the many examples of the kinds of information that can be gleaned from the analysis of material culture.

The documents in the collection are also worthy of notice and study. There are many different types of written materials in the collection, including financial records, correspondence, individual service reports, as well as officer commendations. Being particularly interested in military history, I found the documents pertaining to his service amazing. The most interesting are the documents relating to his service at the battle of San Juan Hill, particularly the comments offered by his commanding officer in response to Laws' actions during the battle:

"First Lieutenant Albert Laws, 24th Infantry to be Captain by brevet, for conspicuous coolness, good judgment and valuable service on the firing line at the Capture of Fort San Juan Block-House near Santiago, Cuba, July 1st, 1898, going back and forth from the firing line to the river crossing under what may, without exaggeration, be called a murderous fire from all directions; also for the same qualities and fortitude in the actions of July 2nd and 3rd in which he was shot through the arm, and taken to the hospital, but came back to the trenches the next day and worked while wounded, and staid.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient Servant,
(Sgd.) A.C. Markley
Major 24th Infantry,
Commanding Regiment"

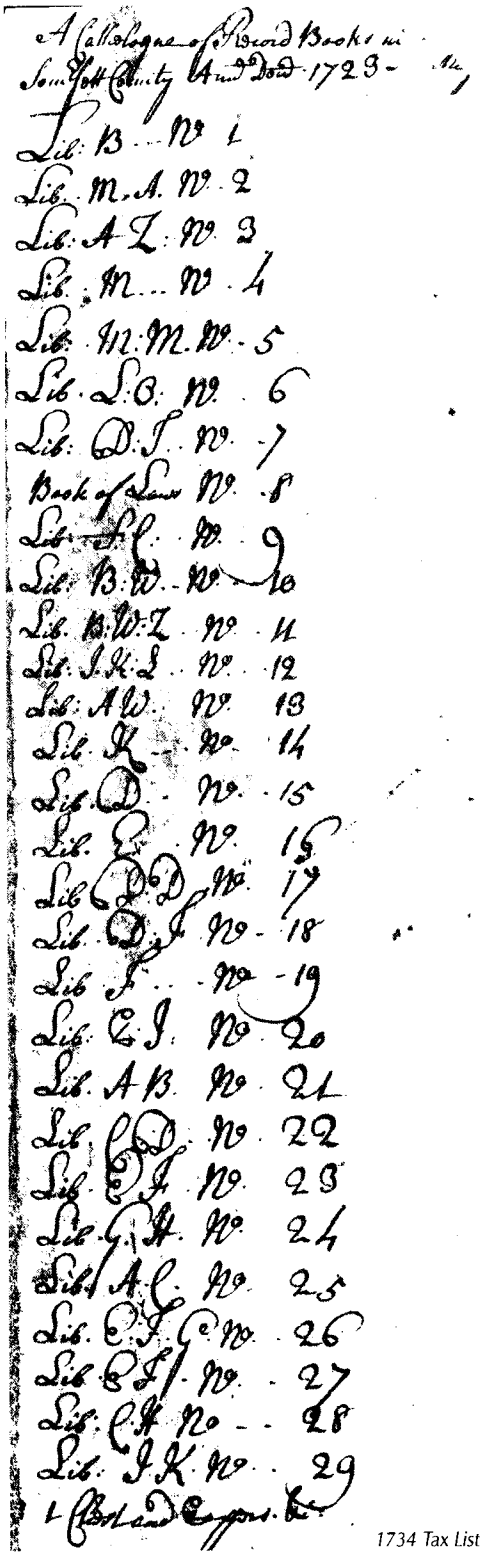
Not to be outdone, the materials that pertain to Albert Laws' service on the Philippine Islands are interesting as well. He worked as a police officer while serving in the Philippines, and there are several documents in the collection detailing his experiences in that position. One document describes how Laws' horse was lost while being used by a fellow soldier. There was a long letter justifying why the soldier lost it. The general impression that I got from this letter was that his fellow soldier was trying to get the Army to pay for the cost of the horse.

Materials like this make it a joy to thumb through the collections in the archives of the Nabb Research Center. This particular collection is a fascinating selection of resources relating to a local man who lived during an exciting time in our nation's history. In analyzing these documents and artifacts, it is not hard to imagine Captain Laws pulling fellow soldiers out of harm's way, even at the risk of his own personal safety. Reading these documents leads one to wonder: Did this local man meet the future president Teddy Roosevelt while he was serving on Cuba?

This is just one of the interesting and significant collections housed in the Nabb Research Center. I hope that you will visit us to discover the valuable history of Delmarva and the people who lived here before us.

The Mystery of Somerset County's Missing Court Record Books

by T. Aaron Horner


A Catalogue of Record Books in Somerset County 4th Dec. 1729

Lib. B. No. 1
Lib. M.A. No. 2
Lib. A.L. No. 3
Lib. M. No. 4
Lib. M.M. No. 5
Lib. L.C. No. 6
Lib. D.J. No. 7
Book of Law No. 8
Lib. L. No. 9
Lib. B.W. No. 10
Lib. B.W.Z. No. 11
Lib. I.K.L. No. 12
Lib. A.W. No. 13
Lib. K. No. 14
Lib. D. No. 15
Lib. E. No. 16
Lib. D.D. No. 17
Lib. D.I. No. 18
Lib. I. No. 19
Lib. E.I. No. 20
Lib. A.B. No. 21
Lib. D.D. No. 22
Lib. D.I. No. 23
Lib. G.H. No. 24
Lib. A.C. No. 25
Lib. E.I.C. No. 26
Lib. E.I. No. 27
Lib. C.H. No. 28
Lib. I.K. No. 29

1734 Tax List

For over 300 years, Somerset County has provided us with its rich history through information in court record books. Due to its geographic location and a bit of luck, the "forces of evil" such as fire or war have not victimized these records. A closer examination reveals that there are missing records that cannot be explained by historical events, however. Researchers working with the judicial records will notice a period of time where books do not exist. What happened to these records? For how long have they been missing? There are seven books containing deed records for the year of 1706 year alone! By examining the records, we may be able to prove how these record books were used and reach a better understanding of how they were handled.

Two factors that must be considered are the locations of the Somerset County seat of government and the clerks whose primary responsibility was the recording and maintaining of court record books. Regarding the former point, the earliest court proceedings for Somerset County began on December 11, 1665, at the residence of Thomas Poole at Back Creek on Manokin River. On October 1, 1668, Randall Revell (d. 1686/7) and his wife Katherine deeded 20 acres on the south side of Manokin River near Deep Point to Lord Baltimore (Liber B, p. 127). This became the first of several unsuccessful attempts to establish and maintain a permanent courthouse along the Manokin River, a fact that was a major concern with the provincial government. During that period, it was not uncommon to hold court at the residence of a local freeholder. Both Henry Smith and Andrew Whittington (d. 1694/5) had each deeded lands to the government for the purposes of building a courthouse. As settlement along the seaboard side flourished, the removal of the county seat from the Manokin River area to a more central location seemed ideal. That almost led to a division of the county, however. In a March Court 1693/4 entry:

> Ordered by the foresd Justices in Court Sitting that mr ffrancis Jenckins & Capt Wm: Whittington purchase A Tract of Land not exceeding two hundred Acres near Deviding Creek. And that erect or build a Courthouse thereon (viz) fifty foot long & twenty feet Wide Overjetted, the Gable end of Brick, wth a Chimney below and above to be underpind with bricks &ca. to be Soley left to the Care and managemt of sd Jenckins & Whittington, which Charge to be defrayed pr County aforesd. Ordr Sent. Memorand mr Roger Woolford sale prindent when E- (Judicial Records, 1693-1694, p. 90)

On June 18, 1694, Edward Stockdell and his wife Jane deeded 200 acres called "Little Derry" to the justices of Somerset County (Liber L, p. 186). Located near the mouth of Dividing Creek on the north side of the Pocomoke River, this site served as the seat of government for Somerset County until the creation of Worcester County in 1742. In 1698, a government report to the General Assembly on the conditions of Maryland courthouses indicated that:

> "Somersett County has a very good Court house with a brick chimney no ordinary is kept therein, and the Records are Kept now att the the clerks Lodgeings." (Archives of Maryland, Volume 22, Proceedings and Acts of the General Assembly, March 1697/8-July 1699, p. 103)

As a result of the creation of Worcester County, the justices for Somerset County ordered the removal of the record books from the Dividing Creek courthouse to the new seat of government in Princess Anne. (Judicial Record, 1744-1747, p. 305) In 1831, a fire destroyed the first courthouse in Princess Anne. Fortunately, the court was in session when the fire occurred and all of the records were rescued. The current Somerset County courthouse was completed in 1905, the third courthouse in Princess Anne. There, the court records remained until their removal to the Hall of Records (now State Archives) at Annapolis.

In 1716, the General Assembly passed "An Act for repairing the Damages already sustained in the Record of the Land, Secretary's, Commissary's and County Court Offices; and for the Security of the Same Records for the future." (Volume 30, Proceedings and

Acts of the General Assembly, April 1715-August 1716, p. 607) In accordance with the act, an entry in the August 1717 Somerset County court proceeding recorded the numbers of books present as well as their condition:

Somerset County,

"This day to wit the tenth day of June anno 1717 according to direction of a certain act of assembly of this province for inspecting into the records of each county to see what repairations and amendments are wanting we the subscribers as by order of court have done the same.

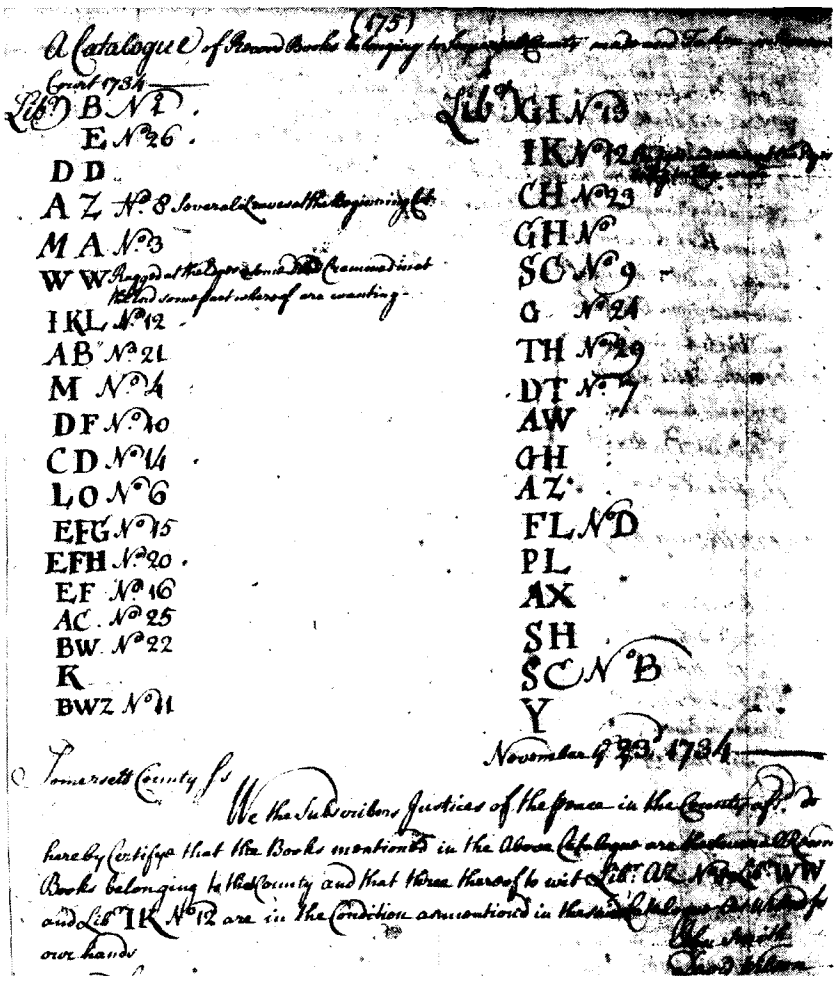
"We do find twenty one books well covered and all full written out but two, 'Libra EFG' and 'Libra EF' but newly begun also five books wants covers but no writing defaced or broke as perceived the names Vizt 'Libra SC' only the cover is split in two, 'Libra D' both sides of the cover broke half way in each side, 'Libra K' wants covers all over, 'Libra BW' some leaves loose. To what we return in satisfaction to the court order." (Judicial Records, 1715-1717, p. 309)

Six years later, another count of books was recorded and inserted after the index in Judicial Book 1723-1725. Unlike the 1717 record, this record listed each book by its title. The list contains 29 books, plus "1 Chest and Papers &c." The latter would have consisted of loose court proceedings from which the judicial books are comprised, as well as other loose documents, such as probate records and tax lists. During court sessions, the clerk recorded the information on loose pieces of papers, later transferring the information into the record books. In 1734, another catalog of court record books was compiled; this list contained 36 books by title and condition. (Liber AZ, p. 175) This identical list of court record books can also be found in 1743 (Liber X, p. 79) and in 1749. (Liber A, p. 75)

As mentioned earlier, along with considering the locations of the Somerset County seat of government when seeking to explain the missing judicial records, we also need to consider the clerks who recorded and maintained the court record books. From 1665 to 1749, eight individuals served as clerk of court for Somerset County, with all but one residing on either the Annamessex or Manokin rivers, the first areas to be settled in Somerset County. As such, one can understand the opposition against moving the seat of government out of the Manokin region during the 1690s.

George Johnson, the first clerk, served those few months prior to the formation of Somerset County in August 1666, yet all of the missing judicial records occurred during the administration of Edmund Beauchamp (clerk, 1666-1688 and 1689-1691). The years include: 1668 to 1670, 1677 to 1683 and 1684 to 1687. What are the chances that Beauchamp never entered those proceedings into bound books? It would be very unlikely, since there are judicial books maintained before and after these gaps. Also, deed books remain from those missing periods, leading to the expectation that judicial books were maintained by Beauchamp as well. Additionally, the proceedings for November Court 1683 and March Court 1683/5 have somehow survived.

William Aylward (clerk, 1688-1689) was appointed by the Calvert family and was more than likely a member of the Catholic Church. Unlike other clerks who resided in the county prior to their appointment, Aylward was an "outsider." In an area heavily settled by those of the Protestant faith, it is not surprising that his term ended abruptly with the Protestant Revolution. Both Aylward and Alexander Hall (clerk, 1705-1722/23) used the back of existing books to record deeds. Liber IKL, once used to record the vital records for Somerset County, became a deed book once Hall inserted records within its blanks pages. This offers one explanation for why there are seven books containing deed records for 1706. It is also possible that the previous clerk, Peter Dent (clerk, 1697-1705), did not turn the books over to Hall in a timely manner, forcing Hall to use any available books at the courthouse. In April court 1723, the justices ordered that the records be removed from the residence of Alexander Hall (clerk, 1705-1722/3) and placed at the Dividing Creek courthouse (Judicial Records, 1723-1725, p. 20). Thus, it can be inferred that it was customary for clerks to keep the record books at their place of residence.


1734 Tax List

Unlike their counterparts on the Eastern Shore of Virginia who combined probate, deed and judicial records together into one book, the clerks for Somerset County attempted to separate these records into individual books. Of the 28 books from the 1723 catalog, only nine contained both deed and judicial records together. Interestingly, this occurred most often during the administration of Alexander Hall. Rather than recording them together, Hall used one end of the book to enter judicial proceedings and then flipped the book over to use the other end to record deeds. After 1723, Thomas Hayward (clerk, 1723-1749) ended the practice of recording deeds and judicial proceedings together into one book.

We find that there was no standard letter sequence

for either the deed or judicial series. This indicates the probability than an unused series of bound and titled books was not kept on hand for use by the clerk of court. We see evidence of this in the index for Liber E (Judicial Records 1695-1696), where John West noted that he had purchased that book from Captain Arnold Elzey. The lack of availability of blank books may also explain why Hall used the end of several books to record deeds in 1706.

With the exception of Liber BWZ (Judicials 1690-1691), probate records were not recorded in county record books during the Colonial period. Unlike Virginia, Maryland had established a provincial-level probate court called the prerogative court. Each county submitted all probate records to be recorded into the prerogative court books. There are Somerset County probate books that cover the Colonial period, but those books were compiled some time after the Revolutionary War. Each book contains the liber "EB" designation for Esme Bayly, the first register of wills for Somerset County. A deputy clerk was appointed to go to Annapolis, page through the prerogative court books and copy any probate record pertaining to an individual from Somerset County. Each probate document ends with the location from which the record was taken from the prerogative book.

Currently, the liber number designation for the Somerset County judicial books consists of the year span that each book covers. Evidence indicates that each of these books once had an original number, however. The question of why these books have not retained their original numbers is yet another mystery that emerges from these early court records. To help explain it, we can look to Louis Dow Scisco's 1927 article titled "Colonial Records of Somerset County," published in the *Maryland Historical Magazine* (Volume 22, p. 349). In his report, Scisco noted that the condition of the binding for the judicial books prior to 1722 were "in various stages of ruin." The earliest record books had leather bindings, which often deteriorated more quickly than later parchment-bound books. Scisco also briefly described each book by title, dates, length and condition.

When Clayton Torrence, former rector of Somerset Parish, wrote *Old Somerset on the Eastern Shore of Maryland* (1935), judicial records notations often referred to the original liber number. Similar references can also be found in Emerson Bryan Roberts' book, *The Roberts Family of Wales, Middlesex, Virginia and Maryland* (1930). At that time, the records continued to reside at the courthouse in Princess Anne, since work on the Hall of Records did not begin until 1934.

Given the condition of the bindings when Scisco examined the record books, the dates of Torrence's and Roberts' work, and the date of the construction of the Hall of Records, it is very probable that a number of the judicial books lost their bindings prior to or during the transfer to the State Archives. Scisco's report could be used to match the original record book numbers with their current titles. By examining the catalog of books found in the court records as well as Scisco's report, we can approximate when those "missing" judicial records disappeared. The number of record books listed in the 1717 catalog indicates the books were missing by that time.

Altogether, three major factors must be taken into consideration when trying to explain why these judicial books are missing. One, as late as 1723, the books were often kept at the residence of the clerk and not at the courthouse. Two, it took time to transfer the record books from one clerk to the next. Three, a permanent courthouse was not maintained during the early years of settlement, and the seat of government often moved from one location to another. Thus, it can be suggested that all record books may not have transferred together.

Judicial Books (1665-1735)

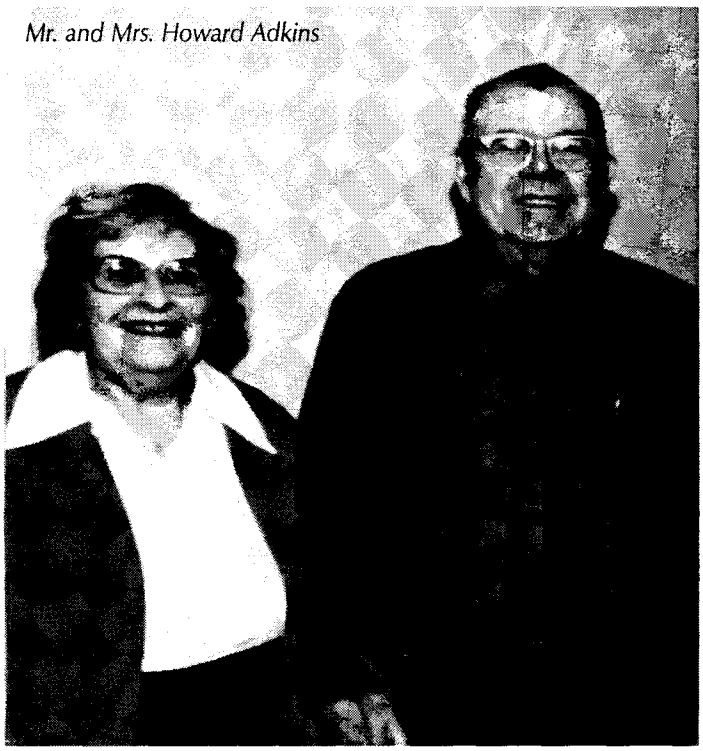
Current Title	Date Span	Original
1665-1668	1665 (Dec)-1668 (Sep)	B 1
1668-1670		(missing)
1670-1671	1670 (Sep)-1671 (Sep)	DT 7
1671-1675	1671 (Oct)-1675 (Sep)	AZ
1675-1677	1675 (Nov)-1677 (Sep)	???
1677-1683		(missing)
1683-1684	1683 (Nov)-1683/4 (Mar)	???
1684-1687		(missing)
1687-1689	1687 (Nov)-1689 (Jun)	AW
1689-1690	1689 (Sep)-1690 (Nov)	BW
1690-1691	1690 (Nov)-1691 (Oct)	AW (again)
1691-1692	1691 (Nov)-1692 (Jun)	BWZ
1692-1693	1692 (Aug)-1693 (Jun)	K
1693-1694	1693 (Aug)-1694/5 (Jan)	D
1695-1696	1695 (Aug)-1695/6 (Mar)	E
1696-1698	1696 (Jun)-1698 (Jun)	DD
1698-1701	1698 (Aug)-1701 (Jun)	DF
1701-1702	1701 (Aug)-1702/3 (Mar)	P
1702-1705	1703 (Nov)-1705 (Sep)	GI
1705-1707	1705 (Nov)-1707 (Jun)	AB
1707-1711	1707 (Aug)-1711 (Jun)	EFH
1711-1713	1711 (Jun)-1713 (Aug)	GH
1713-1715	1713 (Nov)-1715 (Aug)	AC
1715-1717	1715 (Nov)-1717 (Nov)	EFG
1717-1718	1717/8 (Mar)-1718 (Nov)	EF (again)
1719	1718/9 (Mar)-1719 (Jun)	CH
1719-1722	1719 (Aug)-1722 (Aug)	IK
1722	1722 (Aug)	AC (again)
1722	1722 (Nov)	GH
1723-1725	1722/3 (Mar)-1724/5 (Mar)	???
1725-1727	1724/5 (Mar)-1727 (Jun)	SC B
1727-1730	1727 (Jun)-1730 (Jun)	AX
1730-1733	1730 (Aug)-1733 (Jun)	FL D
1733-1735	1733 (Jun)-1734/5 (Mar)	GY

In closing, all court records play an important role for researchers. While probate records allow us to determine a person's wealth, judicial records often shed light on a person's character. Today, most of the early judicial records for Somerset County have been transcribed. While the first book, Liber B, was transcribed years ago, Atwood Barwick has spent the last 10 years transcribing those records from 1670 to 1696. These transcriptions have been incorporated into the Archives of Maryland record series, which are accessible through the Maryland State Archives Web site (www.msa.md.gov). Frank Walczyk has transcribed the judicial records from 1707 to 1718. As for other court records, Ruth Dryden has abstracted the probate records while Leslie and Neil Keddie have abstracted both deed and probate records.

It is unlikely that the missing judicial books survive to this day. No one ever knows what may be buried in someone's attic or tucked away in some old chest, however. If those books are missing and presumed lost, there is still some hope that the State Archives could piece together the loose court proceedings to reconstruct the original volumes. This may be a slim hope, however, as when the records were being transported from the basement of the Princess Anne courthouse to the Archives, workers noticed a number of nests built by the mice using the loose papers in the boxes. Mice? Rats!

Retrospective

Focus on Patrons



Mr. and Mrs. Howard Adkins

It would be difficult to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Nabb Research Center without recognizing all of the support that it has received from the local community. The generous donations of materials, time and money clearly indicate that the Nabb Center is a rallying point and meeting place for local citizens interested in Delmarva's history.

In the late 1970s, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Adkins helped to plant the seeds of what would grow into the Edward H. Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture when they donated a collection of microfilm probate records from the Lower Eastern Shore to Dr. G. Ray Thompson and Mrs. Sylvia Bradley. Mr. and Mrs. Adkins came from families with a long local ancestry on the Eastern Shore and were devoted to the study of the Shore's history. The Adkins' gift was soon followed by the donation of a microfilm reader by Mrs. Frank Holloway, a neighbor of Thompson. With these initial donations, Thompson and Bradley created a research center for students and patrons in their personal offices.

Another early "angel" in the history of the Nabb Research Center, as Thompson describes her, was Mrs. Grace Atkinson Morris. Mrs. Morris became aware of Thompson and Bradley's small operation through a student who interviewed her while researching a local history topic. Morris, who had ties to Princess Anne, MD, enthusiastically supported the fledgling research center with annual donations of $5,000. The money that she donated enabled Thompson and Bradley to purchase microfilms, historical monographs and updated microfilm machines. Her donations eventually purchased 12 microfilm readers, many of which are still in use today at the Nabb Research Center.

The small operation that Thompson and Bradley sprouted in their faculty offices soon outgrew the confined space. The administration at Salisbury University recognized the value in what Thompson and Bradley dubbed "The Delmarva Historical Archives" and threw their support behind it. They initially gave the archives expanded space in Holloway Hall and ultimately its current location on the East Campus Complex. The University also allocated graduate students to the research center to ease the workload of Thompson and Bradley in running the growing organization. In addition to providing space and staff, Dr. Thomas Bellavance, then SU president, also placed the Delmarva Historical Archives under the funding umbrella of the Salisbury University Foundation. The Foundation's initial funding of the Nabb Center totaled $5,000 annually and steadily grew.

The Nabb Research Center was fortunate to have many supporters who nurtured its growth along the way. People like Dr. Polly Stewart from Salisbury University's English Department greatly enhanced the Center's collection. Stewart conducted extensive research in local folklore and donated her entire collection to the Nabb Center. Her collection is still widely used by students and researchers alike. Distinguished historian of the Smithsonian History Museum, Dr. Wilcomb E. Washburn was another important donor. Washburn donated his extensive personal library to supplement the Nabb Center's collection. In addition to this, the William E. Donner Foundation established an endowment in honor

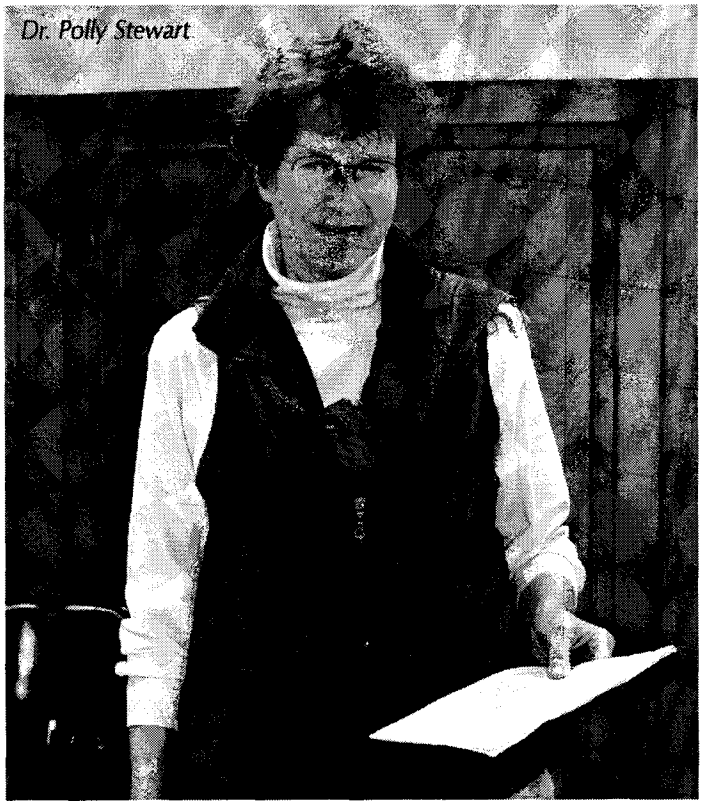
IN MEMORIAM

Our longtime supporter, Grace Atkinson Morris of Princess Anne, Maryland, passed away on April 9, 1997, at age 90. Mrs. Morris was a member of the Research Center and an avid supporter in many ways. She contributed substantially to the Research Center in monetary donations as well as books and memorabilia. We dedicate this issue in honor of her unwavering faith and her vision of what the Research Center might one day become. Without her financial support, it certainly could not have progressed as it has to date.

Mrs. Morris never wanted anyone to know the contributions she made and insisted on total anonymity. Rare is the individual who does good for altruism alone. Mrs. Morris was not one for seeking credit or the limelight and likely would be displeased with even this small recognition of her efforts.

God bless you, Grace. We'll miss you.

Mrs. Grace Atkinson Morris


Dr. Polly Stewart

of Dr. Washburn that enabled the Center to create the Washburn Delmarva History Prize, which is awarded to students who exemplify outstanding scholarship in utilizing the Center. Mrs. Marelynn W. Zipser of Salt Lake City, UT, is another benefactor who established the Miles-Stevenson Student Research Prize in memory of her ancestors, Roger Atwood Miles and Arintha May Stevenson.

By the late 1990s, Thompson and Bradley's project blossomed into what many touted as Salisbury University's "Jewel in the Crown." The Research Center's uniqueness earned it praise and attention. This led Dr. William Merwin, then SU president, to find a local attorney, Edward H. Nabb, willing to donate a generous $500,000 endowment in support of the Center. In honor of the donation, the Delmarva Historical Archives formally changed its name to the current Edward H. Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture.

The success of the Nabb Center could not have been possible without the support of dedicated volunteers. Running the Center requires a large investment of time; time which Thompson and Bradley did not always have available. Graduate students helped to alleviate some of the pressures on the co-founders, but not all. It was the work of dedicated volunteers who fulfilled the needs of the Center, allowing it to flourish and grow.

The Nabb Research Center has had many volunteers, but one certainly stands out. Patricia Taylor has volunteered at the Center for so long that she cannot even remember exactly when she started. Taylor began volunteering only on Monday nights, balancing her time between the Wicomico County Free Library and the Center. She soon realized that her time and talents were best served at the Nabb Center because it housed many of the resources valuable to her genealogical research. Taylor began volunteering more and more at the Center until she became a permanent fixture as the volunteer coordinator and the chief genealogical researcher. It is hard to imagine the Nabb Center without her.

The Nabb Research Center's growth from a seedling in the faculty offices of Thompson and Bradley to the fruitful resource that it is today is a story that demonstrates the value of community support. Without the help of the countless donors, volunteers and patrons we would not be celebrating the 25th anniversary of Thompson and Bradley's dream. We thank all of you for getting us to where we are today and look forward to the future. Thank you!

Patricia Taylor

Volunteer Opportunities

The Nabb Research Center is always looking for volunteers to assist in the delivery of its services to students and avocational researchers. There are volunteer opportunities for those with a variety of skills and interests, from public relations and community outreach to transcription and data entry. Whether your background is in museums, libraries, archives, academia, sales, publications, advertising, or information technology, we can tailor a project to suit your skills and availability.

In addition to welcoming volunteers from all professions and walks of life, we have a particular need for individuals with research experience. If you have used the Nabb Center or other research facility in your genealogical, academic, or professional research, please consider using your skills and experience to assist other members and patrons in their research.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact us at 410-543-6312 or send an email to rcdhac@salisbury.edu.

We welcome any gift of time that you may offer us.

Retrospective

Nabb History and Timeline

Dedicated to preserving the rich heritage of the Delmarva Peninsula, the mission of the Nabb Research Center is to cultivate and sustain the advancement of scholarly research through collecting, preserving, disseminating, and providing access to records and artifacts which illustrate the rich historical and cultural heritage of the greater Delmarva region.

For 25 years, students and community members have benefitted from the wealth of historical resources and enthusiastic staff and volunteers of the Nabb Center, yet few know how it grew from a single filing cabinet to its present identity as the Edward H. Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture.

The seeds of the Nabb Research Center were planted in the late 1970s by Dr. G. Ray Thompson and Mrs. Sylvia Bradley, history professors at what was then Salisbury State College. These scholars shared an interest in local history and a student-oriented approach to education. Concerned that a lack of awareness of the career possibilities afforded by a history degree was leaving many students reluctant to enter the discipline, they introduced several new courses, including Studies in Local History, Museum Studies and Introduction to Material Culture, all of which were designed to teach students to locate, analyze and interpret a multitude of primary source materials.

The success of these courses made apparent the value of establishing a research center. Thompson recalled discovering that the Delmarva region holds the oldest continuous historical records in America: "It was a wonderful finding ... few people have any idea of the historic uniqueness of our area." Yet despite the historical and cultural richness of the region, students still struggled to locate materials. At the time, there was no central facility dedicated to the collection and preservation of original records from Delaware and the Eastern Shore of Maryland and Virginia; these valuable materials were strewn across 36 different locations.

The research center opened unofficially in 1982 when Thompson and Bradley began assembling a repository of materials relating to the rich history and culture of Delmarva in their faculty offices. This collection, then known as the Delmarva Historical Archives, was initially stored in a single filing cabinet and was intended to not only provide students with resources for hands-on historical research, but also to preserve this unparalleled historical record. As a first step in this endeavor, the two colleagues appealed to the public for access to privately held historic materials. A number of important documents and collections were acquired as a result of the generous donations of historical societies, patriotic organizations and community members. The Folk Life Archives, previously held by the English Department under the charge of Dr. Polly Stewart, were also added to the growing repository.

"Our hope was that with these little used records of Delmarva, we could, in time, help re-write the history of the colonial America which had been written basically from a New England viewpoint so that it would show the significant contributions made by this region," explained Thompson.

By 1988, the Delmarva Historical Archives had outgrown not only the file cabinet that initially had housed it, but also Bradley and Thompson's faculty offices. Additional space in Holloway Hall was allocated for the archives, but the blossoming repository soon outgrew even this space as historians and community members joined students in using the valuable materials. In 1992, the collection was moved to the Power Professional Building (now East Campus Complex of the Salisbury University campus), where it continued to grow. In 1997, Dorchester County attorney and philanthropist Edward H. Nabb endowed the Research Center with $500,000, allowing it expand to the 6,000 square feet of operational space that it currently encompasses. The facility was renamed the Edward H. Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture in honor of this generous endowment.

Although it began as a collection of documents in a single filing cabinet, the Nabb Research Center now consists of a reading room for student and public use, a classroom for the University, an archaeology laboratory, a microfilm room, archival storage and staff offices. The Center's holdings include archival material, artifacts, family histories, photographs, manuscripts, maps, newspaper clippings, obituaries, rare books and browsable reference stacks with more than 8,000 monographs and serials relating to United States history, the Delmarva Peninsula and the greater Chesapeake region. An extensive microfilm collection, consisting of more than 4,000 reels of primary research material, includes courthouse records from Dorchester, Worcester, Wicomico and Somerset counties in Maryland; Accomack and Northampton counties in Virginia; and Sussex County in Delaware, plus primary source materials gathered from other repositories. Among its many services, it preserves original materials, safeguards an extensive archive, conducts classes and workshops, assists academic and avocational researchers in research projects, develops educational exhibits, and produces numerous publications.

The Nabb Research Center was established to assist the students of Salisbury University in developing research skills to benefit their academic and professional careers, and this student-oriented focus has been maintained through its 25 years of growth. It houses materials of scholarly interest to students in nearly all disciplines, and the Center continues to embrace the primary mission of promoting and facilitating academic scholarship relating to the history and culture of the Delmarva Peninsula.

Students are not alone in using and benefiting from the Nabb Research Center, however; the Center also focuses on meeting the needs of the larger community by providing services and resources to family historians, historical societies and avocational researchers. The facility serves as a meeting place for local historical associations; it also hosts symposia, sponsors lectures and conducts workshops for educational, cultural, historical and community groups.

The Nabb Research Center's growth in size and services has been matched by its growth in local, state and national recognition. As a credit to its service, the Center has been recognized by the Maryland Historical Trust for its preservation and conservation of the region's historical records. The Center earned the American Association for State and Local History Award for its continuing efforts to create a regional archive for Delmarva, as well as commendations for its exhibits. It has received numerous grants promoting its purpose, and the endowments and support of a multitude of generous community members have allowed the Research Center to successfully pursue its mission of advancing scholarly research through collecting, preserving and providing access to Delmarva's records and artifacts.

As the Nabb Research Center celebrates its 25th anniversary, we take this opportunity to thank everyone who has been a part of the Center's growth and success in safeguarding and cultivating interest in the unique and wonderful history of Delmarva.

Nabb Research Center Developmental Timeline

A Haven for History: The Delmarva Archives
Research center begins program of expansion
CERTIFICATE OF Commendation
Presented by the American Association for State and Local History
Research Center for Delmarva History
to and Culture at Salisbury State University
for the project, "Wooten on Delmarva"
SALISBURY STATE UNIVERSITY NEWS
Donor Foundation Donates $75,000
For Washburn Endowment in History
EDWARD H. NABB RESEARCH CENTER FOR DELMARVA HISTORY AND CULTURE
Research Center honors Nabb
Descendant of indentured servant donates $500,000
Delmarva Settlers
Salisbury

Edward H. Nabb and Rebecca Miller

1982
- Research Center founded
- Grant awarded to establish Delmarva Historical Archives

1988
- Separate space for Archives Center in Holloway Hall

1992
- Research Center moved to Power Professional Building

1994
- National award for Wooten's "Delmarva: A Glimpse of Eastern Shore Life through the Photographer's Eye" exhibit by American Association for State and Local History

1995
- Full-time director Rebecca F. Miller hired

1998
- Endowment of $500,000 by Cambridge attorney Edward H. Nabb
- Endowment from the William E. Donner Foundation enables creation of Wilcomb E. Washburn Student History Prize

2000
- Endowment from Mrs. Marelynn Zipser of Salt Lake City, UT, enables creation of the Miles-Stevenson Student Research Prize

2001
- Grants by the Institute for Museum and Library Services and the Maryland Historical Trust allow creation of American Origins project, which is to serve as basis for Nabb Research Center's future activities and strengthen its position as academic research laboratory

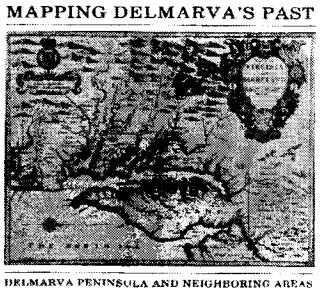
2002
- The launch of *History Minute* on WBOC
- Allocation of 1,100 additional square feet in Power Professional Building

2004
- Archaeology lab comes to Nabb Research Center
- Participation in Teaching American History (TAH) Program "Community as Laboratory: Maryland's Eastern Shore and the History of Freedom and Democracy in America" to give Wicomico County teachers the tools to teach American history in the context of local history.

2005
- American Origins and DelmarvaSettlers.org go live, marking the beginning of the Nabb Research Center's effort to expand the use of digital technology

Focus on Exhibits

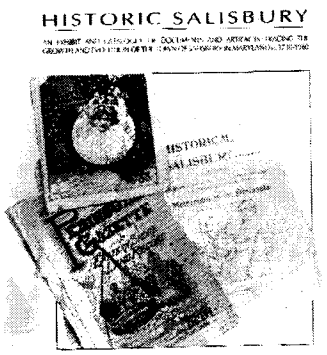
May 1990 - "Mapping Delmarva's Past"



The "Mapping Delmarva's Past" exhibit featured hand-drawn historic maps and the surveyor instruments used in creating them. The instruments were loaned to the Nabb Research Center by local surveyor Richard W. Cooper, whose appreciation of the beauty and technical history of the surveyors art led him to create the collection. The maps, a large portion of which were donated by John Jacob, spanned the 17th through mid-20th centuries and were created by craftsmen from Holland, France, Germany, Italy, England and the United States. These artful maps had varying–often humorous–interpretations of the shape and size of the Delmarva Peninsula; geographic accuracy increased as artistic design decreased.

The themes explored in the "Mapping Delmarva's Past" exhibit included early exploration discoveries, international competition, regional boundary conflicts, growth of infrastructure and transportation, development of coastal charts, and military involvement in the French and Indian Wars, Revolutionary War, War of 1812 and the Civil War.

April 1991 - "Historic Salisbury"

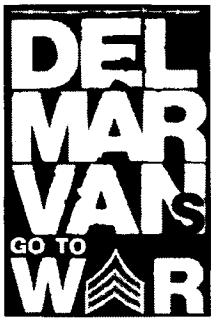


The "Historic Salisbury" exhibit traced growth and evolution of the town of Salisbury from 1730 to 1960 through a number of collections of documents, artifacts and photographs. Ranging across more than two centuries, these items symbolize the changing lifestyle of the town, as well as its growth from a tiny market place to a seat of government and commercial, industrial and cultural center.

The exhibit was arranged chronologically, focusing on six broad periods: the early Colonial era of Salisbury's first settlements and incorporation as a town; the latter 1700s to early 1800s when the village began to be a market center for the surrounding farmers and watermen as seen through the 19th-century growth of "agribusiness" and the arrival of the railroad; the half-century of tragedies of Civil War and disastrous fires, coupled with the new role as county seat of a new county; the mixed blessings of the early 20th century with the breaking of Humphrey's Lake dam, Depression, World War and civic and philanthropic expansion; and finally the maturing in Post-Second World War times as a center of industrial, commercial and even tourism strengths.

While the exhibit did not pretend to be a summation of all of the outstanding personalities and events that marked growth of Salisbury, taken in total it provided an accurate and dramatic biography of a town.

October 1991 - "Delmarvans Go to War"



This exhibit developed as a result of the Nabb Research Center's acquisition of the Norman Elzey Collection, an assortment of documents, items and militaria donated by Robert Elzey in relation to Norman Elzey's involvement in the First World War. This collection, as well as the 50th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, provided much of the inspiration for this exhibit.

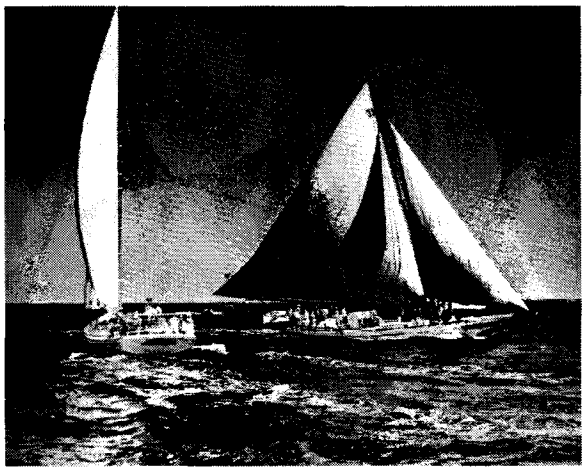
"Delmarvans Go to War" was arranged chronologically and topically. While military items were displayed frequently and prominently, the display was more about how activities on the home front related to those on the battle lines. One of the goals of the exhibit was to raise questions about how industry on the Shore responded to the wars, the part that Delmarva's agricultural community played in war efforts and, perhaps most importantly, how people here reacted to the wars.

October 1994 - "Delmarva: A Glimpse of Eastern Shore Life through the Photographer's Eye"

For more than 30 years, photographer Orlando V. Wootten explored the fields, forests, waterways and towns of the Eastern Shore, capturing the essence of life on Delmarva. Orlando's lens–his eye–focused upon the communion of friends at fire hall suppers, the grace of skipjacks under sail, the bone-weariness of those who follow the water and the beauty of quiet inland millponds. He made these visions manifest to countless appreciative viewers.

The "Delmarva: A Glimpse of Eastern Shore Life through the Photographer's Eye" exhibit of photographs was arranged into the categories of The Water, The Land and The People, representing the physical and human landscape of Delmarva.

This captivating exhibit received a national award by the American Association for State and Local History.



April 1995 - "Women's Quilts, Women's Voices"

"Women's Quilts, Women's Voices" was an exhibit centering on the experiences of women on Maryland's Eastern Shore through an examination of quilt-making traditions and the role of the quilts in women's lives. One voice was that of the quilts, which communicate the ideas, tastes, needs and resources of the quilters. The other voice was that of oral history, which fills out and adds depth to the evidence of the quilts, explaining what quilting has meant to the women who made them. Together these sources yield a richly textured narrative of women's lives: what they treasured, how they lived, and how they expressed themselves.

Quilters—often though not always women—stitched into their work their ideas and values. They produced quilts for practical purposes; to provide warmth or generate income. Sometimes working alone, at other times working together, women made quilts as gifts, sewing out of love or to mark a special occasion. Women bound into quilts family and community, often using the quilts to benefit one or the other. Their quilts could reflect a communal effort, constructed by church groups, quilting societies or families. Crafted by a group, such quilts literally tied together a community—reflecting a group identity and symbolizing that community.

Women made quilts to express themselves artistically as well. While many women sewed to please themselves, some quilted to compete for prizes or recognition. Whether intended for private use or exhibition, their quilts gave outlet to a creative impulse. Through the colors they chose and the fabrics they selected, women expressed their ethnic, regional and individual identities. Using feed sacks, scraps or new fabrics, women found ways to fashion items both serviceable and pleasing. Patterns came from their own imaginations, design books, magazines, other women or a blending of sources. Embodying this design flexibility, quilts range from traditional to innovative and represent the quilter's circumstances, culture and time period.

November 2005 - "Late 19th-century Native American Photo History: Tracing the Provenance"

In collaboration with Salisbury University Cultural Affairs Office, the Nabb Research Center featured the exhibit "Late 19th-century Native American Photo History: Tracing the Provenance." The display included a collection of photographs that were part of a donation to the Nabb Research Center by Dr. Wilcomb E. Washburn who served as director of the Smithsonian Institution's Independent American Studies Program and curator of the Division of Political History at the National Museum. The original photographic works illustrate the blend of Western and Native American cultures that was occurring at this time.

Portraits of some notable Native American personalities of the late 19th century such as Sitting Bull, Red Cloud and Geronimo, all of whom were involved in various Native American struggles for civil rights, were displayed along with photographs of landscapes and Native American villages. The photographic editing practices demonstrated in the photographs suggested that, as with the written word, photographs can interpret a historic moment. The challenging process of identifying the portraits and the photographers inspired the overall theme of tracing the provenance.

Spring 2008 Exhibit: Assateague Village

By Matthew Heim

Assateague Village, situated at the southern end of Assateague Island, is a village lost to time. Its few remains are quickly fading into the sand, but its story is worth remembering because it is a vibrant part of Eastern Shore culture. Assateague Village, while small, had a thriving community with a unique culture until the mid 1930s when a combination of environmental, social and economic factors eroded the sustainability of the small community. Now all that is left is the Assateague Lighthouse and a few dilapidated remains that have weathered the last 70 years. This spring the Nabb Research Center will feature an exhibit to celebrate the history of Assateague Village. The exhibit, planned to open in February, will focus on the villagers' quaint way of life and the factors that both allowed it to thrive and eventually fade away, including oystering, the creation of Tom's Cove and the impact of the railroad on Delmarva. It also will feature a collection of images, maps and highlights of oral histories from village residents collected by the National Park Service. Keep an eye on the monthly *Shoreline* for more information on the upcoming exhibit.

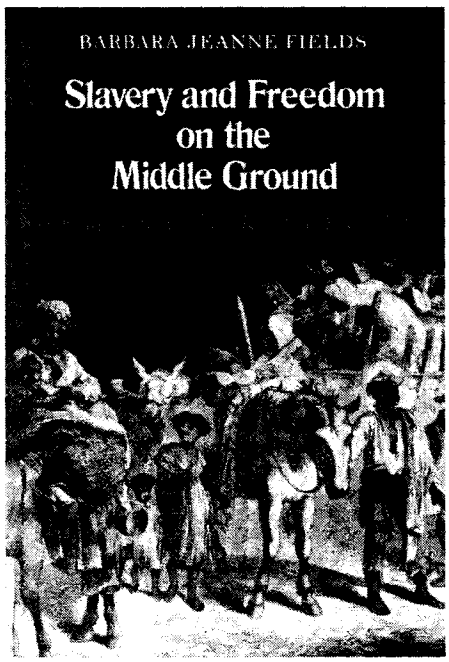
Focus On Collections

African-American Studies Resources

by Donna Messick

The article "Still Searching for Aunt Dilly" in the June 2006 *Shoreline* mentioned a project that I was working on regarding Somerset County manumission records. That project evolved into two different publications abstracted from primary source microfilms found here at the Nabb Research Center.

The first one is an abstract of the Somerset County Maryland Certificates of Freedom. These records show the certificate as it was recorded by the Clerk of the Court and includes certificates and, in some cases, affidavits, dated from 1821 to 1864. Information that may be obtained in the certificates includes the name of the certificate holder, where born and raised, physical characteristics including height, complexion and scars, and adjudged age. Other information found in these certificates may be about the mother, the former owner and whether freedom was attained due to being "born of free woman," manumission by owner, or through a court hearing.



According to the Maryland State Archives' Web site, a law passed in 1805 in the Maryland General Assembly that required African-Americans who were born free to record proof of their freedom in the county court, where a certificate of freedom would be issued. In the case of a manumitted individual, the court clerk or register of wills would need to verify a document before issuing the certificate. This law was created because "great mischiefs have arisen from slaves coming into possessions of certificates of free Negroes, by running away and passing as free under the faith of such certificates." (Maryand Archives, Volume 607, page 46) Certificates of freedom records are available for several of the Maryland counties. A complete list can be found on the Maryland State Archives Web site at www.msa.md.gov.

The abstracted information was put into a database and sorted in alphabetical order and printed. It can be found on our library shelf, while a CD of the database is available at the front desk.

The second set of abstracted records came from Somerset County Land Records Libers LW6, LW7, LW8 and LW9 (1859-1866) and Worcester County Land Records Libers GHR1, WET2 and WET3 (1860-1866). From these records I obtained deeds of manumission and deeds of sale of Negroes and also placed them in a database.

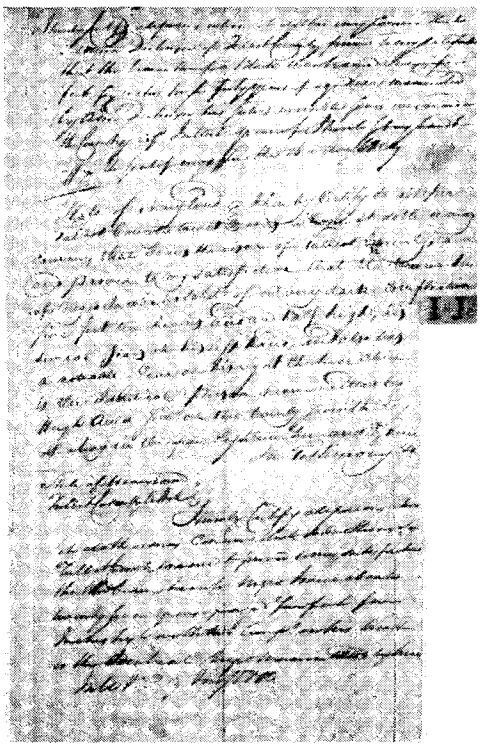
The manumissions of this time period include slaves who enlisted for service in the United States Colored Troops (USCT). They were recruited under the War Department's General Order 329. This act provided for the enlistment of free blacks, slaves of disloyal owners and slaves of consenting owners in the Border States into the USCT. These enlistments started locally in November 1863. Consenting owners were to receive compensation from the government and the slave was to be granted his freedom.

Details regarding the individual being granted his freedom vary in these records. That in itself was interesting, as in some cases enlistment date and regiment, age and other personal details were recorded while others give scant details. Some records provide a surname while others only record a first name.

In the printed version of this abstract now on our library shelf, there are actually four sets of printouts. The deeds of manumissions and the bills of sale are shown separately. The manumissions are sorted alphabetically by the name of the freed person, as well as by the name of the owner. The bills of sale are sorted alphabetically by the name of the buyer and the name of the seller (the slaves in the bills of sale do not have a surname).

These records hold a wealth of information and can now be more easily researched using these abstracts as a finding aid. No longer will the person seeking this information need to go page by page through the reel of microfilm. Now the person of interest can be located using these abstracts and the researcher can then refer to the original record cited in the listing. These certificates of freedom, manumissions and even bills of sales are a valuable resource for anyone doing family history while providing insight into the local economic and political ways of life. The book *Slavery and Freedom on the Middle Ground: Maryland during the Nineteenth Century* by Barbara Jean Fields is recommended for anyone seeking more information into the issues regarding manumission in Maryland.

Over the years the resources available for the study of African-American history have grown considerably at the Nabb Research Center. Future articles will elaborate on some of the other resources available.



Example of 19th-century Certificate of Freedom

The Art of Letter Writing: The Lankford Collection

by Morgan Fincham

Susan Porter Lankford

Few among us can honestly claim to write letters as often as we would like. The obligatory thank you card may be sent to confirm a present received, but these cards are pre-manufactured and mass-produced. All the sender must do is fill in the name and address, and all that the recipient experiences is a generic and rather empty affirmation. Today most of our mail consists of bills and advertisements. The art of letter writing has been lost.

This form of communication truly was an art. In the 19th century one could not make a phone call or send an e-mail and relied upon letters to communicate with others not within easy visiting distance. Four sisters originating from Somerset County wrote to one another as they married and spread across the country. Susan Porter Lankford, Mary Jane Guillet, Sarah Ann Bratton and Betsy Griffith had to write letters if they wished to keep in touch with one another in the lengthy gaps between visits. The Nabb Research Center is the guardian of an extensive Lankford family history, centered around prominent Somerset County planter Benjamin Lankford and wife Susan that includes the salvaged correspondence of the four sisters mentioned previously.

The letters share family updates, agricultural status, political happenings and simple heartfelt sisterly concerns. Mary Jane Guillet was the most prolific writer, which is a good thing for her sisters because she was also the most well-traveled. Her letters were received from the far corners of the country including Louisiana, New York, Missouri and California. Letters are the only way we have of tracking her various moves. In 1836 Mary Jane moved from her Eastern Shore home to New Orleans with her husband. She was initially disgusted with the summer climate and vowed to stay only as long as necessary to save money and settle elsewhere. A year after her arrival yellow fever devastated the area: "They are burying night and day, the hearses are going steady and the hospitals are full of sick and dying persons." Her letters expressed with great eloquence the fear of that time. Neighbors inflicted self-quarantine and dammed water sources. Husbands abandoned their sick wives and children, and vice versa. Her own husband died from the disease, but fortunately she and her children were spared. She attributed this to their Eastern Shore origin: "children born on the tongue of the land as ours were born nothing could not kill them."

Children were at the forefront of the correspondence. In a letter dated June 18, 1838, to Susan, Mary Jane confessed she would love to satisfy Susan's request that she return to Maryland, but she could not yet leave her son John: "You are a mother yourself, and you know her feeling to her offspring, it is her duty to consider their interest." Susan herself was a mother of 10. Mary Jane stated that she would spoil John if she left before he was better established in his career. Her primary concern for her son was his occupational success. For her daughter, her main concern was her marital happiness. When in September 1840 Mary Jane's daughter Frances announced that she was marrying a ship captain named Hugo, Mary Jane warned against marrying a seafaring man. When Frances insisted that she loved him, and Captain Hugo seemed to like her, Mary Jane resigned herself to the wishes of her daughter's heart, thereafter supporting Frances through the loneliness and independent child-rearing that resulted from Hugo's frequent absences while he was at sea.

The letters primarily focus on one another's children and families. Sarah Ann lived in Barren Creek Spring, Somerset County, was married to Anthony and had a son named Franklin. When Anthony became ill, Mary Jane encouraged Sarah Ann to move to New Orleans. These letters reflected the shift in her estimation of New Orleans from disgusting to very beneficial to one's health.

It seemed that besides Sarah Ann's husband, Franklin was often sick. Although Mary Jane still felt languid in the oppressive summers, she bragged in her letter that she never had a cough or cold since her arrival in New Orleans. She sincerely wished that Sarah Ann would bring her family south. Mary Jane was a widow and her

son had established himself independently. For income she took in 15 boarders and many of them she wrote on August 15, 1840, had sickly dispositions and had traveled south on doctors' orders. Anthony died in 1841, never having come to New Orleans. His death rendered Sarah Ann "a poor, miserable creature." Mary Jane was a religious woman and preached that the loss was God's will. She chastised Sarah Ann in a letter sent on May 19, 1841, for being too focused on the gift and not the giver. Mary Jane condescended that if her sister had read the scriptures as she ought, she would realize that others suffered far worse than the loss of their husbands as these two sisters had. She consoled with sincerity impossible in any 21st century communication like e-mail or text message that "when He sees fit to take our Idols from us it is to draw us closer to him." Mary Jane strongly believed that the pains of the earth are present to make the happiness of heaven all that much greater. She ended her letter with the abrupt declaration that she would be in Missouri by the latter part of next month.

Three months after this 1841 letter, Mary Jane wrote to Susan to inform her that she was moving. The New Orleans' summers were too hot and her boarding business had afforded her to "settle elsewhere" as promised upon her arrival in the city in 1836. She felt the loss of Frances to marriage as if her daughter had died, but "that's what she gets marrying a seafaring man." Her son John had discussed moving to Missouri, and her sister Betsy was there with her husband D.W. Griffith. Mary Jane and Mr. Griffith purchased land in Carroll County, MO, and he and his sons built a house for her. Once this was accomplished Mary Jane declared that she felt "utterly settled with one exception and that is to visit Maryland once before I die." She saw first hand in the loss of her husband from the yellow fever epidemic that life is uncertain and she did not know if she would see her beloved Susan again.

There is a two year gap in the paper trail, which resumed briefly in two 1843 letters that spoke of the land deal with Griffith; it had turned sour and she requested that Susan and her husband, Benjamin, visit. Another two years passed before Mary Jane wrote to Susan on February 18, 1845, to admonish for her lack of correspondence. Letter writing in this era was an indication of good character; to write letters was "to do well." Mary Jane assured her delinquent sister that it was not too late to redeem herself by writing to her family. Mary Jane explained that their widowed sister Sarah Ann planned to spend a year with Frances while Hugo was a way to stave off loneliness for both women and to help Frances with her two daughters, Sophie and Jennie.

Another two years passed before a letter was sent by Mary Jane to Susan on November 16, 1847, only two months after a visit to Frances at her home in Brooklyn, NY. The proud mother and grandmother described Frances' Brooklyn home, how delightful her granddaughters were and how much happiness it gave her—so surely it must also to give Susan—to be a grandmother. She again encouraged Susan and Benjamin to visit her in Missouri as it would bring them all much happiness. She reminded herself that looking for happiness on earth is like building sand castles in the air, however: "I have great reason to be thankful that I see as much as I do for there are a great many that have the wealth, and riches of this world and are not as happy as I am." Mary Jane felt that she must be grateful for what she had and not lament over the great distance between her two sisters and daughter on the East Coast.

Two weeks before Christmas of 1855, Mary Jane replied from Missouri to Susan's September letter that their sister Sarah Ann had died. Sometime in the gap of 1847 and 1855 their sister Betsy also died. Mary Jane and Susan were the only remaining sisters out of four, and they were separated by a week's worth of travel. Mary Jane mourned the loss of Sarah Ann and regretted a religious conflict between them" "What is this world but disappointment when we think we have the cup to our lips and ready to take a sip it is gone, but it is all to remind us of a better one than this and to prepare us to enjoy it, therefore let us be resigned to the will of our Heavenly Father in all things." Susan then received a letter from Brooklyn dated August 20, 1857, which relayed that Frances was sailing to China with her husband and daughters. This decision was made as she forbade Hugo to be away from her for another year. Her husband acquiesced, but Frances then refused to be away from her daughters for a year. As such, a governess was hired and the entire congregation shipped out. Mary Jane was invited but decided that such an epic journey was too great for her. She knew that traveling required a lot of energy, but she still thought that Susan would find energy and happiness from visiting friends and both her and Mr. Lankford's health would benefit.

Back in Missouri seven years later Mary Jane wrote a distressing letter to Susan that lamented the Civil War. A fight five miles from her home resulted in the death of three bushwhackers and four militia. Mary Jane bemoaned the radicals who intended to kill everyone who had ever sympathized with the South, women and children included. She wept over the war and bloodshed. Relieved that the last week had been peaceful, she was skeptical as to how long such peace could last, although the widow could not see what kept them fighting. Mary Jane feared that without a miracle there would be famine because the politicians had bankrupted the country and no men were around to cultivate the crops.

The letter also carried the family news that Frances had traveled to Paris with Sophie and Jeanie to hand them over in marriage. Captain Hugo had met two brothers when he contracted ship repairs in Mauritas. The brothers heard of his two daughters and, in need of wives, asked to wed them. Mary Jane wrote: "They became acquainted and made up the matches and Hugo would not give his consent only if they were in the same mind in twelve months he would have no objection so I suppose they are all of the same mind they were then." Frances and the girls shopped for clothes in Paris and then traveled on to Mauritas to complete the match. Later letters show that the marriages resulted in both life and death for the sisters.

Mary Jane's return address suddenly shifted from Missouri back to Louisiana. She did not return to New Orleans but to Washington, LA. In a letter to Susan on March 27, 1867, Mary Jane informed her of the death of her granddaughter Sophie in childbirth. She reported that her sister Jennie successfully delivered a boy but nearly died in the effort. Mary Jane's son John was with her in Louisiana. She complained that he would not hire field help, as hands were demanding half of the crop yield in exchange for labor. In a letter dated April 14, 1868, Mary Jane conveyed the news that she had heard that starvation was occurring throughout the country, but she had not personally witnessed it.

Another address change occurred in December 1869. Mary Jane wrote from Vacaville, CA, praising the climate and the people, many of whom were from Missouri. She disapproved of the native wood, declaring it only scrubby timber "hardly fit for firewood" and the eerie lack of rain. Despite this, farmers had vast acreages for crops or stock and seemed to do well. Although she enjoyed the climate, Mary Jane did not remain in California long. On June 3, 1869, she wrote from Missouri once again. She had received word that

Susan's husband Benjamin was spitting up blood. Mary Jane insisted that cod liver oil was the best remedy for the lungs; such treatment and the avoidance of strenuous work had saved her from the New Orleans yellow fever outbreak 30 years ago, she asserted. The agricultural situation was dismal; insects had devastated local farms and consumed entire fields of neighbors' crops. Luckily, her own farm received only limited destruction. The government of Kansas had provided relief, and a day of fasting and prayer was declared in Missouri. Mary Jane wished this to be observed statewide as intended so that famine would be avoided.

In addition to serious news of agricultural status, family births and deaths, and political events, there was also news of scandal. While polite Mary Jane and Susan referred to darker events obscurely, a reader can decipher the references to wandering men (19th-century women were not exempt from concerns about men's fidelity), a land debate that ended in fatal gunfire, and the mysterious situation of Betsy's seduction by an aunt's husband. There is even an alarming letter written from Benjamin Lankford to his wife Susan to request confirmation that she was not dead, as he had heard while he was serving at the House of Delegates in Annapolis. This provocative letter can only be appreciated if read personally at the Nabb Research Center.

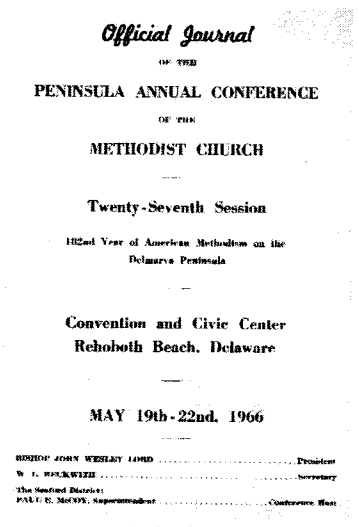
The final letter is a rare one, written to Mary Jane by Susan. The collection contains a handful of letters from Susan to her husband, and Susan kept many letters from Mary Jane, but there are no traces of the letters that she sent to her sisters except for one, dateless, based upon content from the latter years of life. Why the letter is in the sender's collection is unknown. Perhaps it was never mailed out or was returned. Or perhaps her intended audience received it and the sisters were reunited before death, allowing for the letter to return to Susan's possession. Susan wrote that she knew that her sister had "another stroke of paralesses." Both of them had outlived their family and could not expect to be on Earth much longer. Susan expressed the pains of age: difficulty rising, shortness of breath, faintness from any exertion. While lacking a date, this letter must have been written in winter because she reported that the road had been blocked for five weeks and the steamboats had not run since Christmas.

The essence of these individuals and their family is captured in these women's letters. Much of the evidence of modern communication is not preserved for posterity; e-mails are erased from the face of the earth every day and phone calls leave no artifact. If you have lost the art of letter writing, consider spending time with the Lankford Collection at the Nabb Research Center. Immerse yourself in a lost art and rekindle your skills by reading the words of these letter writing experts who live on in the pages of their soulful communication.

Cultivating the Methodist Garden: The Covington Collection

by Matthew Heim

Studying the history of Methodism on Delmarva opens a grand window of insight into not only the society and culture of the Eastern Shore, but also the nation at large. The roots of Methodism in America can be found right here on the Shore in northern Delaware. The followers of Wesley found haven along the border between Maryland and Delaware where they sowed the seeds of and laid a strong foundation for American Methodism. The new church established conferences for the governance of their faith, meeting annually from 1784 to the present. Reverend Charles Covington Sr., S.T.M., Nabb Research Center patron and historian of local Methodism, recently donated his collection of conference journals from these meetings. Covington's collection, while not yet complete, will include the meeting reports for the entire span of Methodist history on Delmarva. This will prove to be a valuable tool for not only researchers interested in the religious history of the Delmarva Peninsula, but also those concerned with regional society and local reactions to national issues.


Official Journal
OF THE
PENINSULA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
OF THE
METHODIST CHURCH
Twenty-Seventh Session
182nd Year of American Methodism on the Delmarva Peninsula
Convention and Civic Center
Rehoboth Beach, Delaware
MAY 19th-22nd, 1966
BISHOP JOHN WESLEY LORD ..... President
W. L. HAUKWEIR ..... Secretary
The Seaford District:
PAUL S. McCOY, Superintendent ..... Conference Host

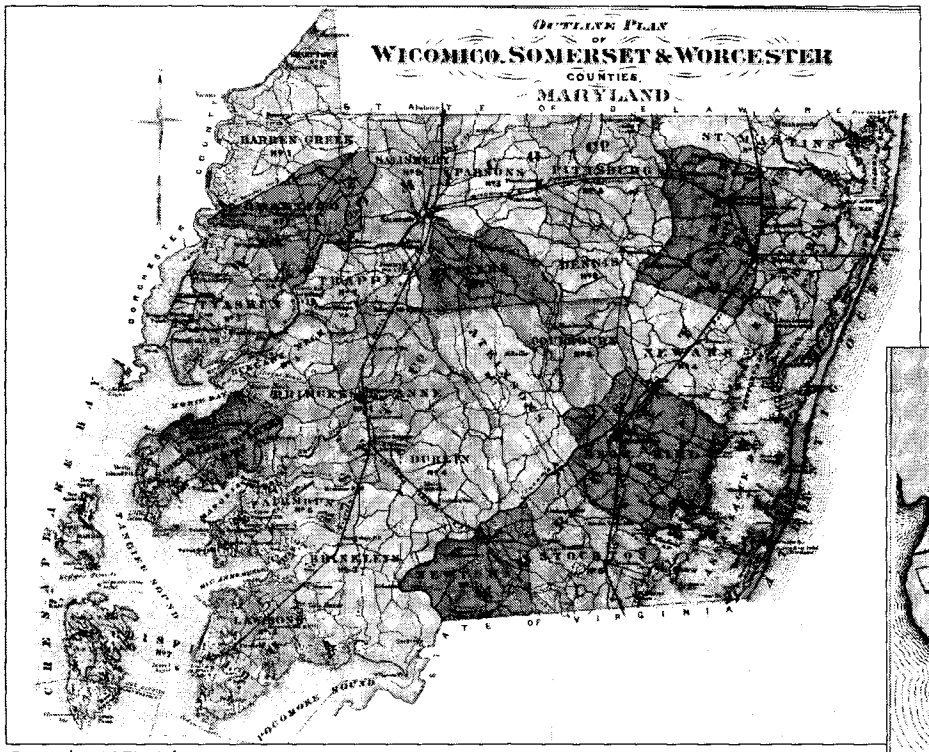
Reverend Charles Covington Sr.

The Methodist faith on Delmarva split several times throughout its history, in some cases over church leadership, but mostly over the controversies surrounding slavery and race. For example, the Methodist Church and the Methodist Church South were divided in 1844 over the question of the morality of slavery. Each local church had the option to choose the denomination to which it wanted to subscribe. This split provides an excellent glimpse into the local community's attitude toward the institution of slavery. The Methodist South Church had two conferences on the Eastern Shore, the Baltimore and Virginia conferences.

After the Civil War the Methodist Church and Methodist Church South united, but the church chose to remain segregated, and the black communities on Delmarva became members of a separate conference. The black conference came to be called the Delaware Conference, which operated until it merged with the white Peninsula Conference in 1965. This merger is yet another example of the impact of national movements on the local level. Many may note that 1965 was the peak of the Civil Rights Movement nationally; it goes without saying that this national movement probably played a major role in the incorporation of Shore blacks into the Methodist Church. The records of both these conferences are also part of Reverend Covington's collection.

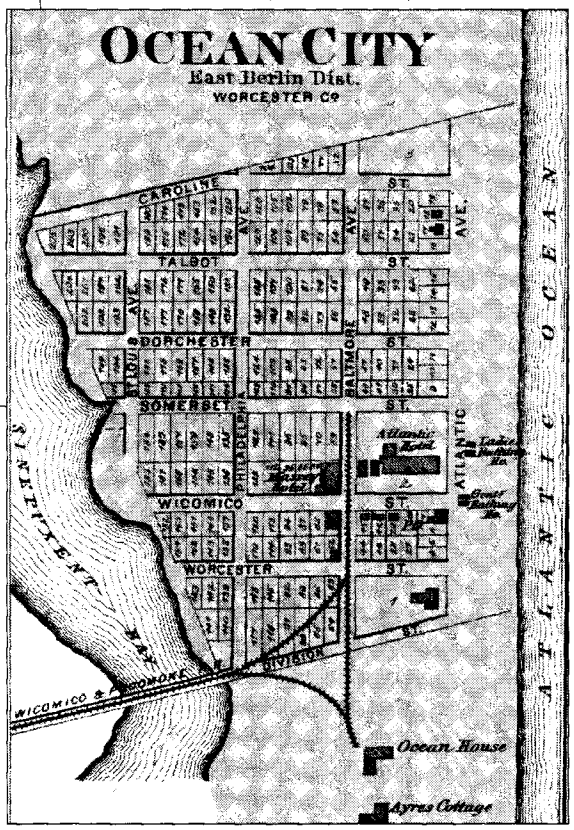
The collection will soon be available for use by Nabb Research Center patrons. We strongly encourage you to consider it as a resources for your research. They offer insight into a wide range of issues relating to the society and religion of both the Eastern Shore and the larger nation. This collection represents the wealth of valuable resources available at the Nabb Center, as well as the importance of supporters like Reverend Covington.

Mapping Delmarva



From the 1877 Atlas

Close-up of Ocean City from 1877 Atlas



The Nabb Research Center has an extensive collection of maps and resources useful to the study of the historic landscapes of Delmarva. One of the most frequently used resources is *The 1877 Atlases and Other Early Maps of the Eastern Shore of Maryland*, a compilation of local maps published in 1976 by the Wicomico Bicentennial Commission.

This volume contains two important cartographic works: John Smith's 1612 map of Virginia and its surrounding areas and Augustine Herrman's 1670 map of the Chesapeake region.

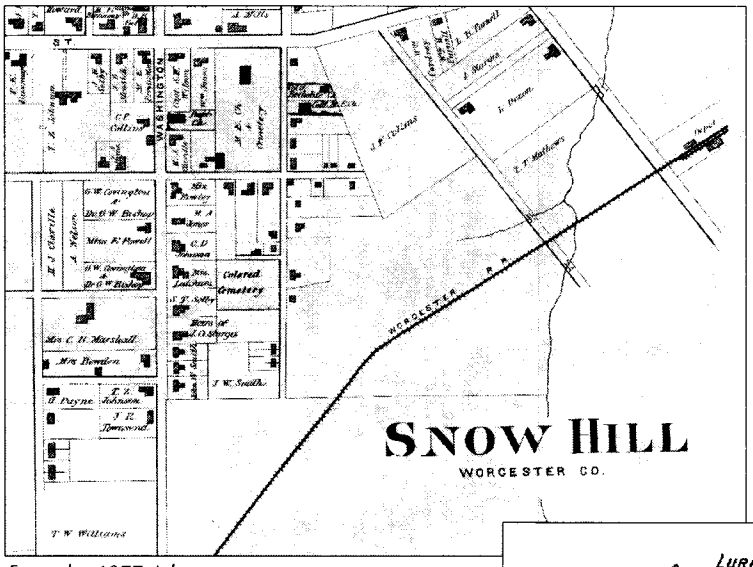
Smith spent three months exploring and recording the details of the Chesapeake Bay area during the summer of 1608. The product of that voyage was the creation of the earliest published map of the entire Chesapeake region. In addition to showing the location of Jamestown, the first English settlement in the region, it also showed the location of Indian villages situated along the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.

Herrman, the first naturalized citizen of Maryland, became famous in his own lifetime by drawing the first accurate map of the Chesapeake Bay. This map, the *Authoritative Map of Maryland* (engraved, London, 1673) enabled many Europeans and American colonists to visualize and learn the features of Maryland.

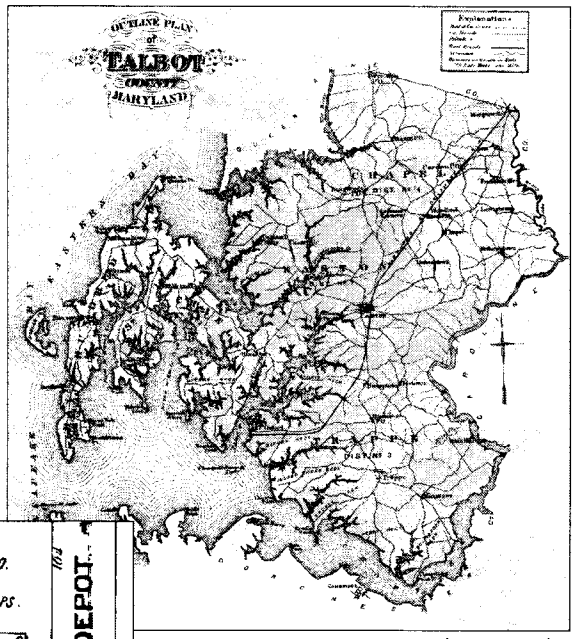
Both maps provide valuable insights into the 17th-century landscape of Delmarva, as well as represent significant advances in early cartography.

In addition to the Smith and Herrman maps, *The 1877 Atlases and Other Early Maps of the Eastern Shore of Maryland* also contains a variety of important and valuable maps, including those from the Lake, Griffing and Stevenson atlases and Sanborn insurance maps.

Along with showing the outline of municipalities and standard cartographic features, the 1877 Lake, Griffing and Stevenson atlases also include a list of patrons for each county with their given names, acreage owned, post office, occupation, place of birth and



From the 1877 Atlas



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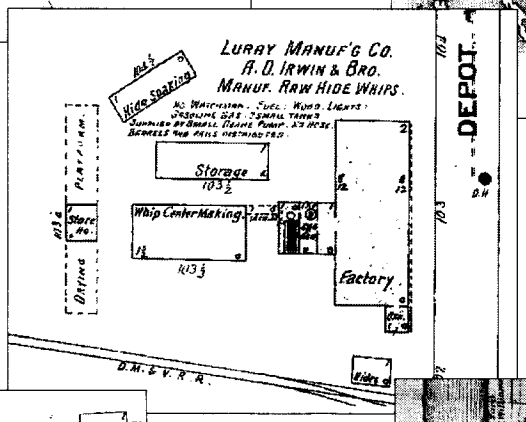
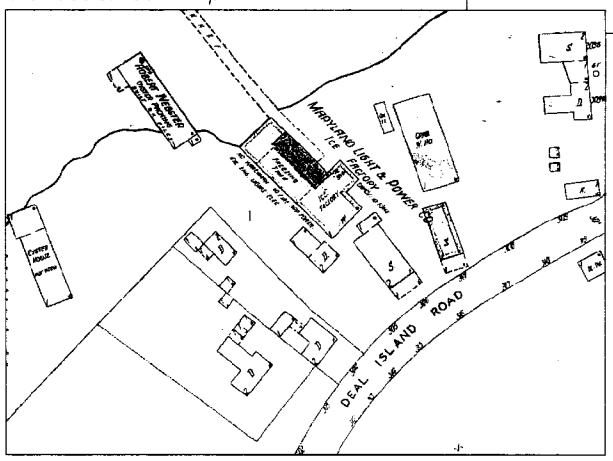
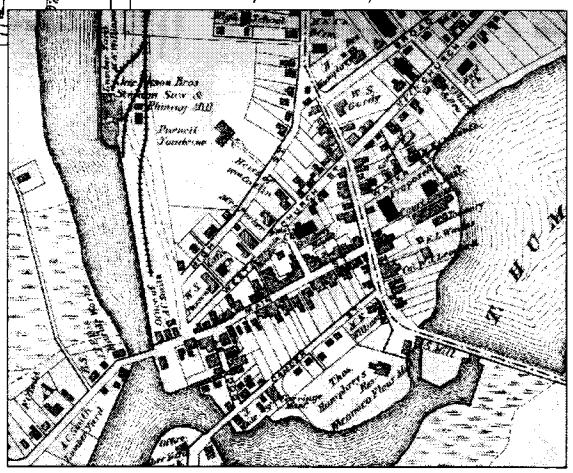


Close-up of Snow Hill from the 1900 Sanborn Map

Close-up of Deal Island from the 1900 Sanborn Map



Close-up of Salisbury from the 1877 Atlas



date of settlement. These atlases were used in the creation of the Nabb Research Center's innovative American Origins project, a Web-based archive that includes detailed information about approximately 3,000 of the earliest settlers in Somerset County, MD. The 1877 atlas is available on the American Origins site in the form of an interactive map (http://delmarva.salisbury.edu).

The Sanborn map collection consists of a uniform series of large-scale maps, dating from 1867 to the present and depicting the commercial, industrial and residential sections of 12,000 cities and towns in the United States, Canada and Mexico. The maps were designed to assist fire insurance agents in determining the degree of hazard associated with a particular property and therefore show the size, shape and construction of dwellings, commercial buildings and factories, as well as fire walls, locations of windows and doors, sprinkler systems, and types of roofs. The maps also indicate widths and names of streets, property boundaries, building use, and house and block numbers. They show the locations of water mains, giving their dimensions, and of fire alarm boxes and hydrants. Sanborn maps are thus an unrivaled source of information about the structure and use of buildings in American cities.

Along with the selection of Sanborn maps available in *The 1877 Atlases and Other Early Maps of the Eastern Shore of Maryland*, the Nabb Research Center also has fire insurance maps of Maryland towns and cities, including Ocean City, Pocomoke, Princess Anne, Salisbury and Snow Hill.

Together, the Smith and Hermann maps coupled with the Lake, Griffing and Stevenson atlases and the Sanborn insurance maps leave *The 1877 Atlases and Other Early Maps of the Eastern Shore of Maryland* as a treasure trove of information for academic and avocational researchers of Eastern Shore history.

Focus on Genealogical Research

Lazarus Maddox: A Somerset County Settler

by John Gilbert Kaufman Jr.

Introduction

This record of the family history and life of Lazarus Maddox derives from research on the Kaufman family history, into which the Maddox family married about 200 years after Lazarus Maddox settled in Somerset County. The information located about Lazarus Maddox makes clear that he deserves some special attention, both for his contributions to the family and also to the settlement and development of the Eastern Shore of Maryland.

One footnote: the spelling of the family name appears differently in many different references, particularly in some of the earliest records. For consistency, the Maddox spelling has been used throughout this article.

Thomas Maddox from London, England

Thomas Maddox, grandfather of Lazarus Maddox, was born around 1590 in or around London, England. Thomas married around 1610; regrettably his wife is recorded only as Mrs. Maddox. In 1613, they had a son, Alexander, who would migrate to the United States and begin a long line of Maddoxes here.

The Leslie Dryden Notes and several books on Somerset County history record that Alexander Maddox came to the United States in 1635, at about 22 years of age. Alexander paid his own way aboard the ship *Abraham* according to the Hotten Lists. The fact that he paid his own way suggests that these Maddoxes were fairly well-to-do for the period, as many who made the trip in those days had little choice or were escaping some kind of religious persecution.

According to *Filby's Passenger and Immigration Ship Lists Index*, Alexander Maddox's ship *Abraham* arrived in Virginia in 1635, but there is little detail on the specific arrival port or of his first moves. The first authentic trace was his signing in March of 1651 or 1652 of the "Engagement to be true to the Commonwealth of England." The next record is found when, in Northampton County, February 18, 1652, he was granted a certificate to 300 acres of land, due him because he brought six people to Virginia with him. The location of that land is not given.

On June 10, 1654, Alexander Maddox and James Jones acquired 516 acres of land in Northampton County at the head of the Nassawaddocks Creek (now Nassawaddox) from their transportation of 10 additional persons to the Commonwealth of Virginia.

It appears that Alexander Maddox married several times. His first wife has not been identified, but we know that he had at least two boys with her, Thomas and Alexander Jr., and one girl, Elizabeth (Fisher). The best records exist for his second wife, Elinor or Eleanor, believed to be the daughter of Lewis White of Northampton County, VA. With Elinor, Alexander had one son, Lazarus, the focus of our attention here, and another daughter, Ann.

Little else is known of Alexander, except that he continued to live in Virginia for the rest of his life, and upon his death in 1659 he left a will dated February 28, 1659, dividing his lands among his three sons, with endowments to his daughters. Since Lazarus was under the age of 18, Elinor was named his guardian, and she and Lazarus were granted the right to live in his existing home.

To Southern Maryland

On February 15, 1661, about two years after Alexander died and while Lazarus was still a young lad, his mother Elinor/Eleanor married William Bozman. Bozman previously had been married with about seven children of his own with his first wife, Bridget.

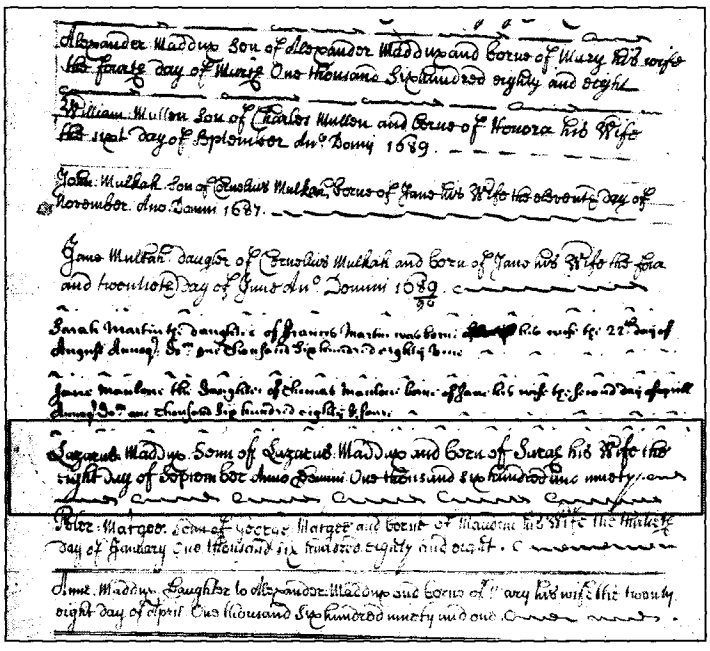
In 1663, William and Elinor Maddox Bozman brought the family to Somerset County, MD. They settled on a tract north of the Manokin River east of Goose Creek, known as "More and Case." By 1695, both William and Sarah Bozman were deceased, and Sarah had left all of her personal property to "her only son" Lazarus.

Lazarus grew up in Somerset County and became active in the community; he was cited by Richardson as a "prominent citizen."

Lazarus married Sarah around or before 1679. Their offspring included:

Mary, b. February 19, 1679; married John Waters and John Cottman
Sarah, b. March 6, 1681; married Thomas Walker
Thomas, b. January 8, 1684
Eleanor, b. 1686; married Robert Scott
Lazarus Jr., b. September 8, 1690
Daniel, b. 1692
Alexander, b. December 12, 1693
William, b. 1695

Lazarus Maddox established his family home in an area known as Fairmount, southwest of Salisbury, MD, on the south side of the Manokin River; a community known as Maddox Landing was on the river near Fairmount. The Somerset County Rent Rolls show that by the year 1700, Lazarus owned the following properties, a total of at least 1,200 acres:



Record of birth of Lazarus Jr. from Liber IKL

Mattox Hope, 100 acres
Bozman's Choice, 300 acres
Cain's Close, 300 acres
Mattox Adventure, 150 acres
Mattox Inclosure, 100 acres
Mattox Inclosure, 250 acres
Mother's Care, unknown

On March 6, 1709, Lazarus also bought 700 acres known as Whitefield on the Manokin River near the head of the Rockawalkin River from Thomas Walker. Lazarus never lived on Whitefield, but willed it to his sons Alexander (who continued the Maddox line toward the Kaufman/Langville family) and William who established their homes there. Later, in 1767, Lazarus sold 63 acres of Whitefield to his grandson Hezekiah.

Lazarus Maddox was active in local and regional government business as well as his own private undertakings. On November 28, 1689, Lazarus Maddox and John Moore signed an address on behalf of the residents of Somerset County to the king and queen of England assuring the throne of their profession of faith to the Protestant religion (Council Proceedings, Maryland Archives, Vol. 8, p. 141). It also expressed the satisfaction of the colonists with the protection provided them and expressed their continued loyalty to the crown.

In 1692, Lazarus represented Somerset County in the Maryland Assembly (Maryland Assembly Proceedings, Maryland Archives, Volume 13, p. 27) and was among the signers of other addresses to the monarchy. According to Richardson, Somerset County was represented in 1693 by Maddox along with John Bozman, Roger Wollford and Capt. William Whittington. It was at this time that Charles Calvert, Lord Baltimore, was Lord Proprietor and Sir Edmund Andros was governor. Some years later, Maddox also was a signer of a petition to the king against Lord Baltimore, though the specifics are not known at this time

Lazarus died early in 1716, and we are fortunate to have a copy of his will dated January 18, 1716. From that will and the inventory of property, we can learn much about the substantial family holdings at the time. Among the major provisions were:

900 acres of land on the south side of the Manokin River was divided between three sons: Thomas, Lazarus Jr. and Daniel
Whitefield, 700 acres, was given to Alexander and William
His home and many furnishings to his wife
About 10 negroes, divided among the heirs
A great variety of silver, brass and pewter pieces, plus special pieces of furniture

Lazarus' wife Sarah died in 1717, shortly after his own death.

Lazarus Maddox's Progeny

As illustrated in the Dryden Notes, Lazarus Maddox's progeny in the Salisbury, MD, area are well documented. While little detail is known about some of the individuals or their families for the next several generations, the lineage is well known. The writer's branch of the family begins with Lazarus's son Alexander III (1693-c1757), Hezakiah (c1745-1805), Wilson (c1786-c1859) and Benjamin (c1810-c1859).

Benjamin Maddox, a farmer in the Whaleyville area east of Salisbury, married Sarah White (circa 1815-1870) on March 1, 1834. Benjamin owned 200 acres of land in that area, so the family was still rather well to do. On September 6, 1836, the second child of Benjamin and Sarah Maddox was born, John Henry Maddox, the writer's great-grandfather on my mother's maternal side.

From John Henry Maddox's obituary and records from the National Archives, we know that John Henry Maddox served as a private with the Northern Army during the Civil War.

On October 31, 1870, John Henry Maddox (1836-1924) married his second wife Mariah Jane Boehm Miller (1837-1905), daughter of Isaac Samuel Miller (1813-1883) and Leah Ann Culver Miller (1817-1853), apparently in Salisbury (this is still under study at this writing). We know little about this part of the Miller family except that Mariah Jane Miller was a teacher and reportedly a "nanny" for the Woodcock family somewhere in the Salisbury area.

John Henry and Mariah Jane Miller Maddox had one daughter, Della McHugh Maddox, born in Salisbury, MD, on April 16, 1877. John Henry Maddox and his family moved to Baltimore sometime around 1877-1885 and lived first at 1703 Light Street and later at 1928 Light Street, an area now much changed from its original residential nature to its present state near Harborplace. John Henry Maddox was the last of the Maddoxes in the writer's family line to live in Somerset County.

From his obituary photograph and others available, John Henry Maddox was in his later years a striking, if country-style figure, with a very long beard. That he was known to his grandchildren is clear from their appearance with him in family photographs.

John Henry Maddox and Mariah Jane Miller Maddox were the great-grandparents of the author. I am one of the many progeny of Somerset County settler Lazarus Maddox.

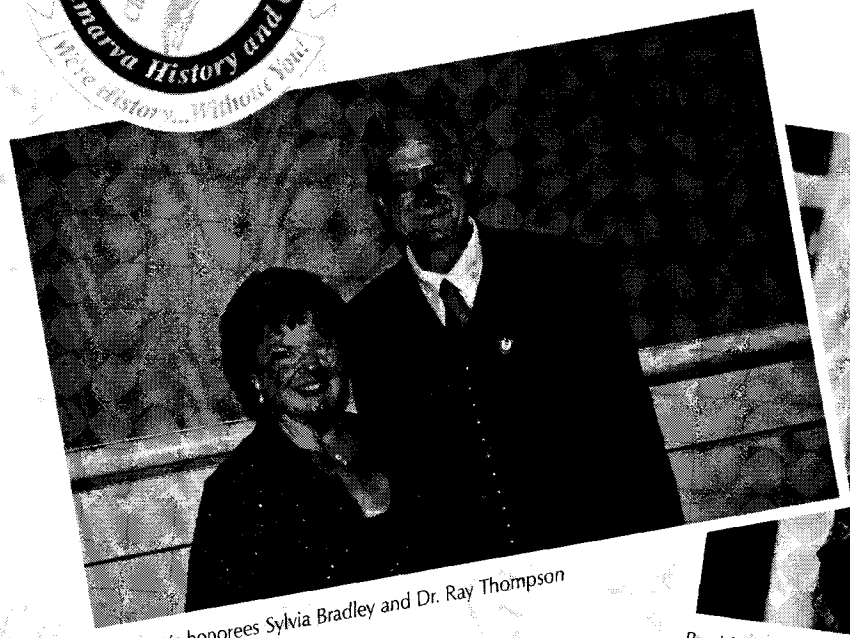
Sources Used

1. "The Maddox Family - Notes of Leslie P. Dryden," transcribed by Edward L. Maddox, Version 1, March 1, 1994
2. Hester Dorsey Richardson, *Sidelights of Maryland History with Sketches of Early Maryland Families*, Tidewater Publishers, Cambridge, MD, 1967.
3. W.N. Hurley Jr., Maddox - *A Southern Maryland Family*, Heritage Books, 1994.
4. John Camden Hotten, *The Original Lists of Persons of Quality: 1600-1700*, (a record of individuals transported to the United State by ship), Genealogy Publishing Co., Baltimore, 1986. (Maddox).
5. P. William Filby, Passenger and Immigration Ship Lists Index.
6. Maryland Assembly Proceedings, Maryland Archives, Volumes 13 and 19
7. Council Proceedings, Maryland Archives, Volume 8

John Gilbert Kaufman Jr. is a retired metallurgical engineer with 50 years of experience in aluminum alloy research, development and applications. He has published more than 125 papers, books and book chapters on the subject of aluminum and materials database design and operation. Genealogy is one of his principal hobbies, and he has found the resources and staff of the Nabb Research Center to be of great help. His genealogical research focuses on the families of Kaufman/Kauffman, Langville, Maddox, Miller and Hobbs. Lazarus Maddox, the subject of this article, was his ancestor, the first to establish roots in the Salisbury area. He is also an active member of the Palatines to America organization, headquartered in Columbus, OH, a great resource for German heritage research (the Kaufman/Kauffman side).

Edward H. Nabb Research Center 25th Anniversary Gala

by Iris Powell



The event's honorees Sylvia Bradley and Dr. Ray Thompson

President Janet Dudley-Eshbach

Celebration was in the air as the Edward H. Nabb Research Center for Delmarva and Culture marked 25 years of collecting and preserving the history of Delmarva on Saturday, November 3, in the Bistro Room of the Commons at Salisbury University. This festive benefit gala honored co-founders Dr. G. Ray Thompson and Sylvia Bradley who 25 years ago conceived the vision for a regional Delmarva history repository and began collecting materials first in a faculty file cabinet, then in a spare room in Holloway Hall–all eventually moving to the present site of the Nabb Research Center.

Over 100 attendees enjoyed a cocktail hour while browsing the numerous silent auction items collected for the benefit. The guests were called to dinner and seated at tables with such historic names as Horkill, Disharoon's Crossing and Nanticoke. Throughout the evening, Paul Morris, anniversary event chair, awarded prizes to guests who could answer Delmarva trivia questions.

The evening's program began with the reading of celebratory proclamations, citations and tributes from the governors and assemblies of Delaware, Maryland and Virginia by Dr. Tom Jones, provost; Dr. Connie Richards, Fulton School interim dean; and Dr. Maarten Pereboom, History Department chair. On behalf of the Nabb Research Center's commitment to promoting Delmarva scholarship, Thompson awarded Wilcomb E. Washburn Delmarva History prizes to Chuck Fithian and Mike Hitch for their scholarly work on Delmarva history.

Dr. Alice Bahr, dean of libraries and instructional resources, spoke of the dedication of the Nabb Research Center's team of volunteers and then awarded Col. George "Buzz" Gering a commemorative plaque for his years of service as chair of the Nabb Research Center Board of Directors. Pat Taylor was awarded the first Patricia Johnson Taylor Volunteer of the Year Award for her many years of volunteer service to the center.

SU President Janet Dudley-Eshbach spoke of the University's commitment to the Nabb Research Center's vision and mission. Jim Perdue, chairman of Perdue Farms, Inc., talked about his family's Huguenot roots on the Eastern Shore and his grandfather's love of the Perdue family history which Jim came to share.

Dr. Michael Scott, who administers the Master of Science in GIS and public administration program at Salisbury University and is the director of SU's Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative, spoke eloquently of the opportunity given him by Thompson and Bradley as a history student at then Salisbury State University which "literally changed my life ... that experience with original research lit a fire in me that continues to burn ... there are hundreds of former students that feel similarly about the debt they will forever owe Ray and Sylvia."

The night's honorees, Thompson and Bradley, were introduced and acknowledged with certificates of appreciation from the Nabb Research Center Board of Directors and prints of the Eastern Shore personalized with icons representative of their Eastern Shore roots created by artist Myrna McGrath and presented by Nabb Research Board of Directors Chair Gary Outten and Vice-Chair Peggy Genvert.

And so it goes that after 25 years, the seeds of commitment to the preservation of Delmarva's history and culture have taken root, planted by Thompson and Bradley, nurtured and sustained by volunteers and staff, and harvested by students, scholars and family history researchers–a legacy of preservation, research and scholarship duly honored and celebrated!

Patricia Taylor

Paul Morris

President Janet Dudley-Eshbach and Joe Eshbach, Jim and Jan Perdue, Dr. Tom Jones and Nancy Jones

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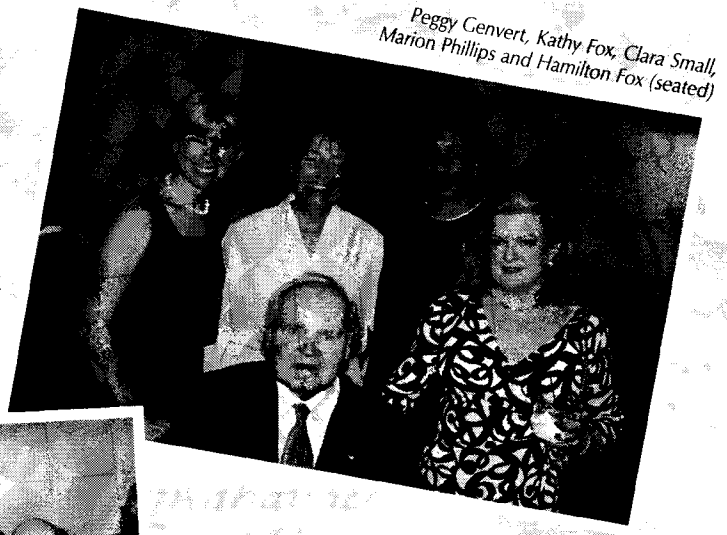
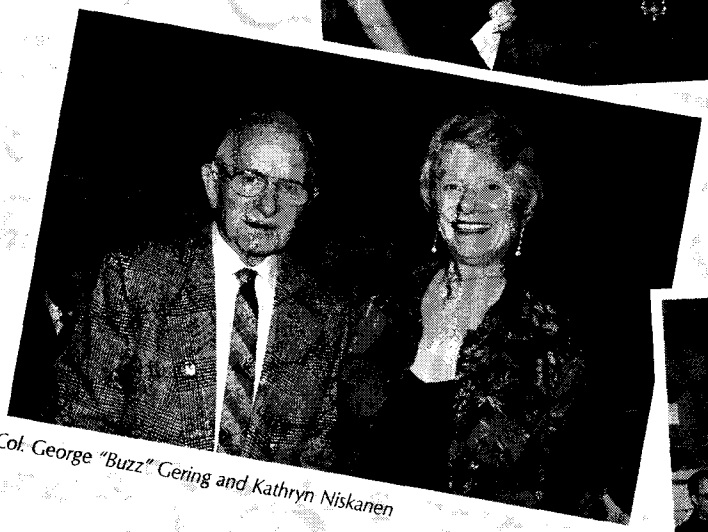


Peggy Genvert, Kathy Fox, Clara Small, Marion Phillips and Hamilton Fox (seated)

Diane and Chuck Fithian, Dr. Elizabeth Ragan and Dr. Edward Otter

Dr. Maarten Pereboom



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Gary Outten and Sylvia Bradley

Scott Remembers When

Dr. Michael Scott introduced the anniversary gala's honorees, Dr. Ray Thompson and Sylvia Bradley, with this poignant speech that is representative of the experiences of countless former students of Thompson and Bradley:

"Isaac Newton said: 'If I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants.' There are many, many people who contributed to the person I am today and the life of an academic I am privileged to lead, but it is two purveyors of the stories of the human experience, as told from the shores of the Chesapeake Bay, that we honor tonight.

In the fall of 1991, I was scared to death. It was a point in my life when the crushing amount of information that I did not know or did not understand made itself known to me. Socrates said 'the only true wisdom is in knowing you know nothing.' I don't know about 'knowing nothing,' but double-majoring in history and geography at Salisbury State University certainly got me thinking about how I didn't seem to know much, with no concrete plan of action to remedy the situation. It was in this context that I took a class on Colonial American History.

It was during that class that another critical hole in my education was revealed to me: I knew virtually nothing of the history of my own area, the Delmarva Peninsula. It had honestly never occurred to me before that history actually took place everywhere—even here. My schooling was filled with dates that important documents were signed, places where battles took place, names of international historic figures. No one ever told me that it was okay to be curious about what happened here, even if those particular local dates, places and names didn't figure prominently into the macro-flow of history.

No one, that is, until Ray Thompson and Sylvia Bradley introduced me to the rabbit warren of file cabinets, bookshelves and microfilm machines crammed into a space sure to induce a claustrophobic reaction on the second floor of Holloway Hall. I viewed that collection of documents that would eventually become the Nabb Center as a historical goldmine. And mine it I did, looking for information that (hopefully) no one else had ever seen before, anxious to break out of simply learning what a professor expected me to learn, and instead creating my own knowledge, my own little contribution to the effort to better understand our human experience. The research I did on the Revells of Somerset County was not earth-shattering or theory-bending, but it was original. And, it represented my induction into a new world—that of the scholar. It really did set me on the path that I continue to walk this day. It is not an understatement to say that the opportunity given to me by Sylvia and Ray literally changed my life, even if I didn't know it at the time.

That experience with original research lit a fire in me that continues to burn—I doubt it will ever be extinguished. And to me, the most amazing part of this whole story is that it is not at all unique. There are hundreds of former students that feel similarly about the debt that they will forever owe Ray and Sylvia."

Dr. Michael Scott is a professor of geography and graduate program director at Salisbury University. He also serves as director of the Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative.

Dr. Michael Scott

Endnotes

In the Next *Shoreline*

The next biannual edition of *Shoreline*, June 2008, will focus on the eastern side of the Delmarva Peninsula. It will include an article about Maryland's short-lived Durham County, Virginia's Assateague Town and the Ocean City Lifesaving Museum, among others.

If you have an article, photo, or other material that may be appropriate for this edition, please call the Nabb Research Center at 410-543-6312 or send an e-mail to rcdhac@salisbury.edu.

Last Minute

The Nabb Research Center recently acquired eight microfilm reels containing the *Easton Gazette*. The collection spans from 1825 to 1885 and covers the years of the American Civil War. Look for an article about the collection in the January *Shoreline*.

Submissions

Anyone interested in submitting an article to the *Shoreline* newsletter should send their item to the newsletter editor as follows:

Nabb Research Center
Salisbury University
1101 Camden Avenue
Salisbury, MD 21801
Or send an e-mail to rcdhac@salisbury.edu

We also welcome your comments and suggestions.

From the Les Callette Postcard Collection

Membership Renewal

The Nabb Research Center is your passport to Delmarva's past. Membership includes unlimited Nabb Research Center visits and a subscription to the bi-annual members edition of the *Shoreline* newsletter. Your membership also entitles you to receive valuable discounts on Nabb Research Center publications, educational courses, advance sign-up for events and recognition in the SU Foundation annual report.

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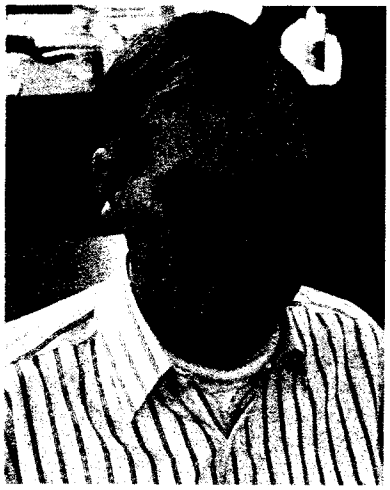
Volunteer Corner

Carolyn Adkins is a board member and is currently researching the Cooper, Bradley, Mills and Wilson families. She also volunteers at the Adkins Historical and Museum Complex in Mardela.

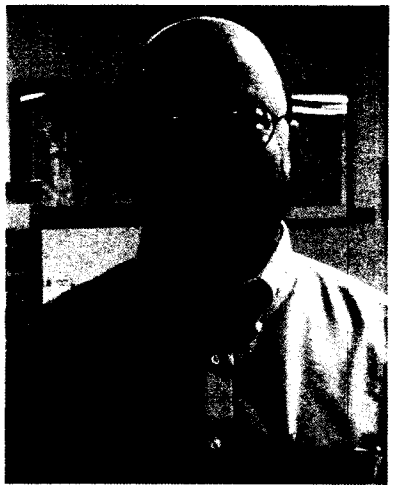
Pat Taylor is a board member, volunteer, research assistant and volunteer coordinator at the Nabb Research Center, where she can also be found giving help in the Reading Room.

Polly Batchelder volunteers her time organizing the material Matthew M. Wise has gathered for his unfinished Long family book. She recently came across another entire volume of material that had been forgotten!

Jane West is a Salisbury University alumna and retired schoolteacher. She resides in La Plata, MD, with her husband John.



Bill Collison, Delaware resident, Nabb Research Center member and volunteer continually researches the history of the Eastern Shore. He also volunteers the second Monday evening of each month.



L. Paul Morris, Salisbury, is a board member and works in the Reading Room every third Monday evening of each month.

Jim Trader is a local researcher specializing in Wicomico County graveyards and volunteers the first Monday evening of each month.

Edward H. Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History & Culture

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